SUZUKA

Kouji Seo

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY

David Ury

LETTERED BY

North Market Street Graphics

DEL REY

BALLANTINE BOOKS • NEW YORK

A Note from the Author

WHENEVER SUMMER APPROACHES, I GET THIS FEELING THAT SOMETHING GOOD IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN. IT ALWAYS PUTS ME IN A GOOD MOOD, BUT THE SUMMER DAYS JUST FLY BY WHEN I'M WORKING. I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TIME FOR VACATION, SO I FIGURED I COULD AT LEAST DRAW MYSELF GOING TO THE BEACH. "PHEW, HAWAII SURE IS HOT!!" —KOUJI SEO

12

SUZUKA

KOUJI SEO

SUZUKA

12

Kouji Seo

CONTENTS

#97 Study Abroad..... 3
#98 An Interview..... 21
#99 Reconciliation..... 39
#100 The Very First Day..... 57
#101 Skills..... 75
#102 Relief..... 93
#103 The Future..... 111
#104 Laundry..... 129
#105 Missed Opportunities..... 147
#106 Unsatisfied..... 165

PLEASE DON'T TELL YAMATO-KUN ABOUT ME GOING ABROAD YET, OKAY...?

SQUINCH

GEEZ...

THOSE TWO ARE NOTHING BUT TROUBLE...

TSSSSSS

SUZUKA

#97 STUDY ABROAD

SUZUKA'S GOING ABROAD?

I HEARD IT FROM THIS COLLEGE CHICK YUUKA-SAN YESTERDAY.

YEAH...

WHAT...?

YOU MEAN YOU KNEW?

W-WELL... YEAH...

OH...

THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME...?

WELL... SUZUKA TOLD ME TO KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT...

SO, YOU KNOW.

THAT NIGHT, SUZUKA TOLD ME THAT HE ASKED HER ABOUT GOING ABROAD.

REMEMBER THAT DAY WHEN THE GUY FROM THE SHOE COMPANY CAME TO VISIT SUZUKA AT SCHOOL?

I TOLD SUZUKA THAT SHE SHOULD FOLLOW HER HEART AND DO WHAT SHE WANTS TO DO...

HUH...?

WHY?

SO...

I GUESS SHE'S GOING TO AMERICA...

EVERYONE KNEW EXCEPT ME...

WHY DIDN'T ANYONE TELL ME?

.....

SHE PROB-
ABLY
COULDN'T
TELL YOU...
BECAUSE
YOU'RE HER
BOYFRIEND.

WHAT
...
?

. . . . . .

PUT
YOUR-
SELF
IN HER
SHOES...

AND
THINK
ABOUT
HOW
SHE
MUST
FEEL...

WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT...?

THAT
MAKES
NO
SENSE...

カチャ
CLINK

カチャ
CLINK

YEAH, HE SAID HE'D EAT LATER.

MIHO, DID YOU TELL YAMATO-KUN THAT DINNER IS READY?

SHOOT.

I CAN'T CLEAR THE TABLE UNTIL HE FINISHES HIS DINNER.

THERE'S A LOT GOING ON IN MY LIFE RIGHT NOW...!!

LIKE WHAT?

YEAH...

PUT YOURSELF IN HER SHOES.

AND THINK ABOUT HOW SHE MUST FEEL...

...SHE TAKES HER TRAINING SERIOUSLY. I GET IT!

I KNOW...

WAS SHE WORRIED I'D TRY TO STOP HER OR SOME-THING?

.....

BUT WHY DIDN'T SHE TELL ME FIRST?

DING DONG

ピンポーン

カチャ

CLICK

301

YAMATO AKITSUKI

YEAH...?

I MEAN...

ASAHINA
...

COME DOWN AND EAT...

...YOUR DINNER.

AH... UH...

UMMM...

AH...!

大和

BYE...

HEY, WAIT!

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?

W- WELL...

I...

I DON'T UNDER-STAND YOU!!

THEN WHAT?

DID YOU THINK I'D TRY TO STOP YOU?

N-NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO YELL AT ME LIKE THAT!!

I MEAN, I WAS HAPPY ABOUT GET-TING THE CHANCE TO STUDY ABROAD, AND...

I REALLY WANTED TO GO.

HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO TELL YOU?

WHAT...?

SO...?

I KNOW THERE'LL BE TONS OF GREAT ATHLETES AND I'LL HAVE TO TRAIN REALLY HARD.

BUT I'M TALKING ABOUT GOING TO AMERICA, YOU KNOW!

...I'LL BE SO BUSY WITH PRACTICE EVERY DAY...

SO...

I PROB-ABLY...

...WON'T HAVE TIME TO THINK ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE.

AND...

I KNOW...

SHE PROBABLY COULDN'T TELL YOU...

...BECAUSE YOU'RE HER BOYFRIEND.

...YOU'LL BE LONELY.

SO, ASAHINA...

WAS WORRIED ABOUT ME...

WHAT WAS I THINKING...!

OH...

WHAT...?

I'LL BE FINE...

I'LL MISS YOU A LOT...

BUT... I CAN TAKE IT!

YAMATO-KUN...

.....

...I GET IT.

LOOK, I KNOW YOU BETTER THAN YOU THINK...

I KNOW HOW SERIOUS YOU ARE ABOUT YOUR TRAINING.

AND I KNOW YOU WANNA AIM FOR THE TOP.

SO DON'T WORRY.

I CAN HANDLE IT.

...

THANK YOU.

WHAT...?

A-ALL RIGHT! SO, HOW ABOUT WE START STUDYING A LITTLE ENGLISH.

I'LL HELP YOU!!

GEEZ, THANKS A LOT.

UHH, I THINK I'LL LEARN FASTER WITHOUT YOU.

SUZUKA

#98 AN INTERVIEW

SO, IN AMERICA SCHOOL STARTS IN SEPTEMBER?

HMMM...

WHAT...?

WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO STUDY ABROAD, ASAHINA?

HAMBURGER

720 YEN*

IT'S SAYS HERE "YOU'LL HAVE YOUR OWN ROOM AND A COMPUTER WITH FREE INTERNET ACCESS...

...OUR FIRST-RATE COACH WILL PERSONALLY TRAIN YOU." WOW, THAT SOUNDS GREAT.

I MEAN...

...I KNOW YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT TRAINING AND ALL BUT...

DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT BEFORE YOU STARTED GOING HERE, YOU DIDN'T EVEN CHECK TO SEE HOW GOOD THE TRACK TEAM WAS?

HEY, DON'T SPILL YOUR KETCHUP.

*$7.00

NO.

WAIT, IT'S BECAUSE YOU CAME IN THIRD AT THE I.H. MEET, ISN'T IT... THAT'S WHAT MADE YOU START TAKING THINGS SO SERIOUSLY, RIGHT?

THEN WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S THE REASON?

WERE YOU INSPIRED WHEN YOU SAW THE TRACK WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS?

NO.

THERE'S REALLY NO BIG REASON.

WHY WOULD YOU GO STUDY ABROAD FOR NO REASON?

GOD, JUST LEAVE ME ALONE...

MBURGER

720 YEN

WELL...I GUESS THAT MAKES SENSE...

BURGER

YEN

YOU CAME TO TOKYO FOR NO PARTICULAR REASON, DIDN'T YOU, YAMATO-KUN?

IT'S THE SAME THING.

I HEARD IF YOU ORDER A MEDIUM COKE OUT THERE, THEY GIVE YOU A BUCKET.

I HAVE TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO GAIN WEIGHT WHEN I GO TO AMERICA.

WHAT'S WRONG...?

STILL TRYING TO FIGURE OUT MY REASON FOR GOING?

NO...

WHAT...?

AH... YEAH...

...I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE REALLY LEAVING...

I WAS JUST THINK-ING...

WHAT...

WE WON'T BE ABLE TO HAVE SILLY LITTLE CONVERSATIONS LIKE THIS ONE.

ONCE YOU'RE OVER THERE, WE PROBABLY WON'T BE ABLE TO TALK ON THE PHONE THAT OFTEN.

WHAT...?

DON'T WORRY.

720A

.....

WE CAN HAVE PLENTY OF...

...SILLY CONVER-SATIONS UNTIL THEN...

I WON'T BE LEAVING FOR ANOTHER FIVE MONTHS, SO...

OH, AND I'LL WRITE YOU! IT'S CHEAPER THAT WAY.

YOU HAVE TO WRITE ME BACK THOUGH, OKAY?

YEAH...I WILL.

AH... YEAH...

DONG

DING

YEAH... WHO KNOWS HOW MUCH INTERNA-TIONAL CALLS WILL COST....

I GUESS THAT'S THE ONLY OTHER WAY...

SHE'S GONNA WRITE YOU?

SHE'S GOING TO BE GONE FOR A YEAR RIGHT?

AND ALL YOU'RE GONNA DO IS WRITE HER? YOU'RE COOL WITH THAT?

W-WELL, WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?

UH...

THE BROCHURE SAID SHE'D GET HER OWN COMPUTER AND FREE INTERNET ACCESS.

DOES SUZUKA-CHAN HAVE A COMPUTER?

WELL, NOW YOU KNOW.

WHAT? WHAT? REALLY? I DIDN'T KNOW THAT?

IT'LL PROB-ABLY COST YOU AROUND 140,000 TO 150,000 YEN* WITH ALL THE SOFTWARE AND STUFF.

BUT FIRST YOU GOTTA BUY A COMPUTER.

*$1,400-$1,500

YUP.

OH...IS IT THAT PRICEY?

THEN YOU CAN JUST CALL HER OVER THE NET.

IT'S TOTALLY FREE.

YEAH, RIGHT.

GIVE ME THE 150,000 YEN IN-STEAD.

WELL, GOOD LUCK.

IF YOU GET YOUR OWN COMPUTER, I'LL GIVE YOU SOME OF MY SPECIAL DVD'S.

YEAH. HE SAID HE'D COME DOWN LATER.

DID YOU CALL YAMATO-KUN, MIHO?

GEEZ... WHAT IS HE DOING? I CAN'T FINISH CLEANING TILL HE COMES DOWN.

ASAHIYU BATHS

AH, IT'S OKAY. HE'LL COME DOWN WHEN HE GETS HUNGRY.

DO YOU WANT ME TO GO GET HIM?

OH...

OKAY...

YES... UH-HUH...

OKAY...

THANKS ANYWAY.

301

YAMATO AKITSUI

FWICK

THAT PLACE TURNED ME DOWN, TOO...

SIGH...

FWAP

FWUMP

SIGH...

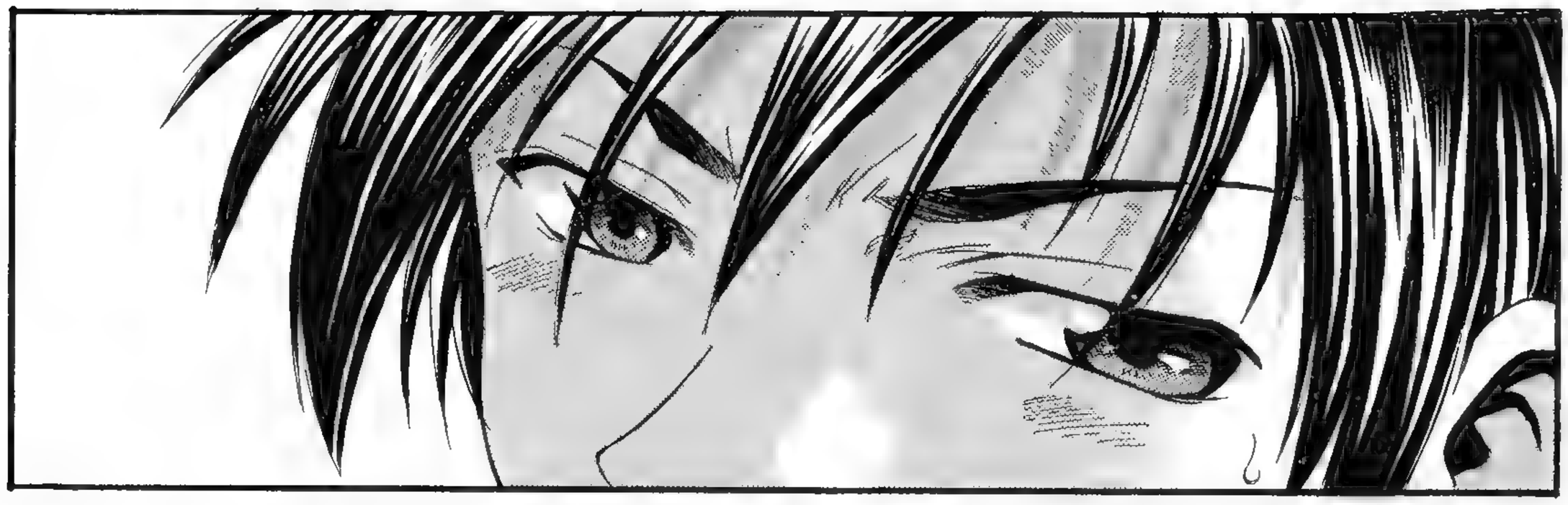
I GUESS NO ONE WANTS TO HIRE SOME-ONE WHO CAN ONLY WORK ONE DAY A WEEK.

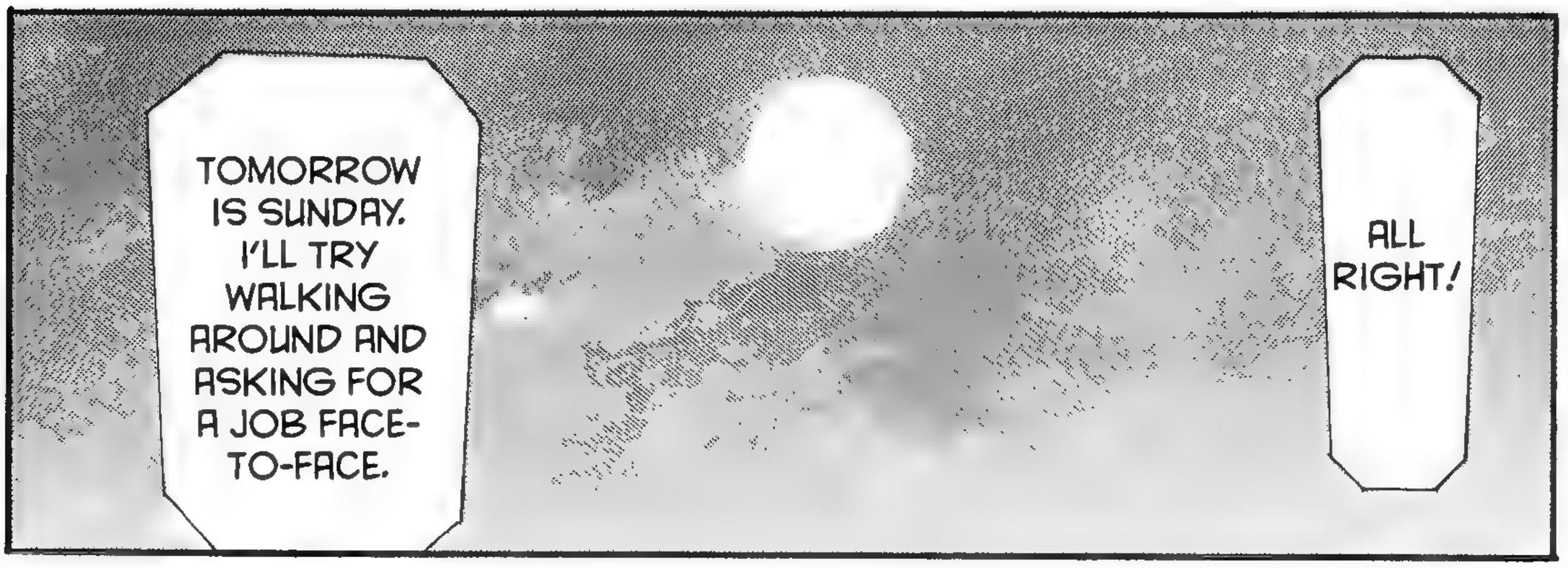
DAMN IT! I MADE THIRTY CALLS AND I COULDN'T EVEN GET A SINGLE INTERVIEW!!

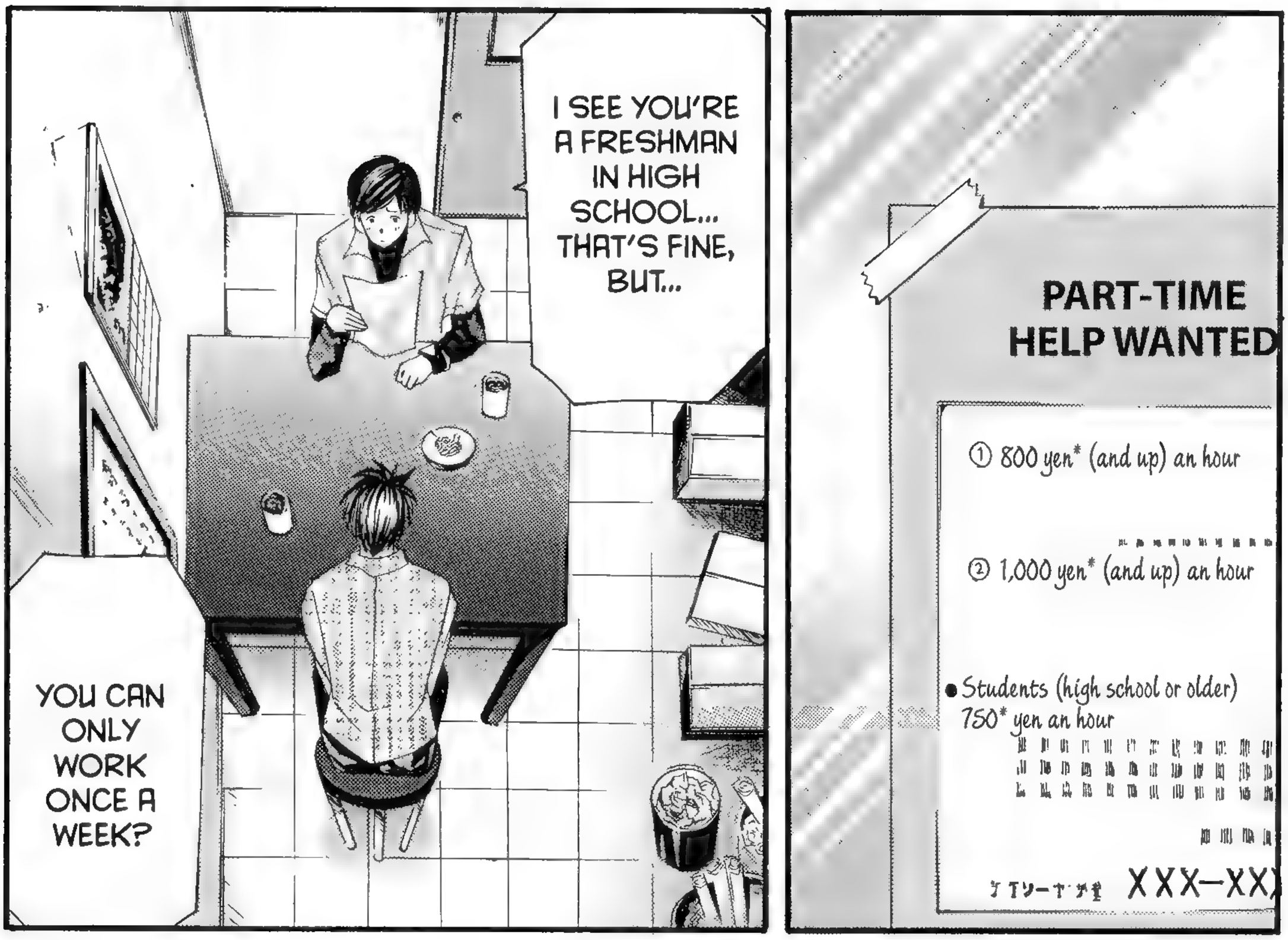
BUT I CAN'T WORK MORE THAN THAT BECAUSE OF PRACTICE.

OUR OLD CAPTAIN WOULD KILL ME IF HE CAUGHT ME DITCHING PRACTICE FOR A PART-TIME JOB.

NOT ONLY AM I NOT GONNA MAKE ANY MONEY, I'M SPENDING TONS ON MAKING THESE STUPID CALLS.




TOMORROW IS SUNDAY. I'LL TRY WALKING AROUND AND ASKING FOR A JOB FACE-TO-FACE.
ALL RIGHT!


I SEE YOU'RE A FRESHMAN IN HIGH SCHOOL... THAT'S FINE, BUT...
YOU CAN ONLY WORK ONCE A WEEK?
PART-TIME HELP WANTED
① 800 yen* (and up) an hour
② 1,000 yen* (and up) an hour
● Students (high school or older) 750* yen an hour
XXX-XXX

*$8.00, $10.00, $7.50

SPECIAL SKILLS...?

PLEASE!! I'M A HARD WORKER!!

I'LL WORK TWICE AS FAST AS EVERYONE ELSE...AND LOOK AT THE SPECIAL SKILLS SECTION ON MY RESUME!!

Abacus Level 6

Fast Runner

k Hiroshima Dialect

I'M SORRY... BUT I'M AFRAID WE CAN'T HELP YOU...

PLEASE, I'LL DO ANY-THING!!

OH, AND IF YOU REALLY WANT TO FIND A JOB, I'D SUGGEST THAT YOU TAKE THE "ABACUS LEVEL 6" THING OFF YOUR RESUME.

.....

PLEASE!!

PART-TIME HELP WANTED

W-WAIT A MINUTE, BUDDY. DID YOU EVEN READ THE SIGN?

I'LL WORK REAL HARD. I'LL DO WHATEVER THE MAMA-SAN SAYS.

DUDE, GO HOME.

BUT I'M A HARD WORKER!!

WE'RE LOOK-ING FOR HOST-ESSES.

WE'RE ONLY HIRING GIRLS WHO ARE TWENTY OR OLDER.

...AND YOU DON'T FALL INTO EITHER CAT-EGORY.

ヒュウウウ

TSSSSWAAA.

I WENT TO TWENTY DIF-FERENT PLACES...

...AND NO ONE WOULD EVEN GIVE ME THE TIME OF DAY.

CLOPPA

CLOPPA

TOKYO IS ONE TOUGH PLACE...

アルバイト募集

WELL, WHO'D WANT TO HIRE SOMEONE WHO CAN ONLY WORK ONCE A WEEK?

PART-TIMER WANTED

- **Males over 16 only**
- **Work as little as one day a week**

AH...?

WELL... I KNOW IT SAYS AS LITTLE AS ONCE A WEEK, BUT...

I'D PREFER SOMEONE WHO CAN COME IN MORE FREQUENTLY.

PLEASE!!

YOU'RE MY ONLY HOPE!!

I'VE BEEN TURNED DOWN EVERYWHERE ELSE.

WELL...

I REALLY DON'T...

IF YOU GET ANY CUSTOMERS FROM HIROSHIMA, I CAN TRANSLATE, AND I CAN DO ADDITION IN MY HEAD... UP TO THREE DIGITS...

FWUMP

AH!

I'LL WORK THREE TIMES HARDER THAN ANYBODY ELSE.

AND I'LL DO ANY-THING THE "MAMA-SAN" SAYS.

I'M BACK!

DING カラン

DONG カラン

PLEASE!

. . . . . .

AH, THANKS. I'M HAVING AN INTER-VIEW FOR THE PART-TIME POSI-TION RIGHT NOW...

I BOUGHT YOU SOME CANNED TOMATOES.

. . . . . !?

AH... YAMATO-KUN.

WHAT AM I DOING HERE? MY FAMILY RUNS THIS PLACE.

Café & Restau

Amami

WHAT?

Y-YUI CHAN...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

AH... YAMATO-KUN.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...?

Y-YUI CHAN...

WHAT...?

Café & Restaura

Amami

WHAT AM I DOING HERE...?

MY FAMILY RUNS THIS PLACE.

SUZUKA

#99 RECONCILIATION

HEY, ARE YOU GOING TO START WORK-ING HERE, YAMATO-KUN?

AH...

SO YOU'RE A FRIEND OF YUI'S?

AH... YEAH...

REMEMBER WHEN I WENT TO THAT THEME PARK THE OTHER DAY? WELL, THIS IS ONE OF THE GUYS WHO WENT WITH ME.

THIS IS NO GOOD... EVEN IF I AM DOING IT FOR SUZUKA.

WELL... UH...

AH...!

FWUMP

カバッ

Y-YOU KNOW WHAT? ON SECOND THOUGHT, JUST FOR-GET ABOUT IT. UH, I'VE GOTTA GO.

WE SHOULD HIRE HIM, DAD.

YAMATO-KUN'S A REALLY HARD WORKER. YOU CAN TRUST HIM.

WELL... IF YOU SAY SO...

THAT'S OKAY. I JUST CAN'T DO IT.

WHAT'S WRONG, YAMATO-KUN?

HANG ON.

I REALLY APPRECIATE YOU GUYS OFFERING ME A JOB WHERE I CAN WORK ONE DAY A WEEK.

AND...I MEAN...IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T LIKE YOU OR ANYTHING, YA KNOW...

OH...NOW I GET IT.

SORRY.

YEAH...

I KNOW.

EXACTLY.

YOU AND YOUR GIRL-FRIEND GOT INTO A FIGHT OVER OUR LITTLE DATE.

SO, YOU CAN'T JUST TELL HER YOU'RE GONNA BE WORKING OVER AT MY PLACE NOW.

I KNOW...

BUT WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO? IT'LL BE REALLY HARD TO FIND A JOB IF YOU CAN ONLY WORK ONCE A WEEK...

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY?

YEAH, I'LL BE FINE! THINGS'LL WORK OUT.

WELL, I'VE STILL GOT SOME TIME BEFORE SHE GOES AWAY.

I'LL FIND SOME-THING.

STEP 14

AH... YAMATO-KUN.

GOOD NIGHT!

WELL, THANKS FOR EVERYTHING.

TELL YOUR DAD THAT I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THE JOB.

CLOPPA
コ
ッ
:

CLOPPA
コ
ッ
:

THE FOLLOW-ING DAY

ASAHI-YU BATHS

WHERE THE HELL DID YAMATO-KUN GO?

GEEZ...

SORRY, ASAHINA!!

I'VE GOT PLANS TODAY, SO I'VE GOTTA TAKE OFF.

I'M ALL SWEATY ANYWAY. BETTER TAKE A BATH BEFORE DINNER.

WELL ⋮

WHAT-EVER.

WOMEN'S BATH

AH... THERE SHE IS!

SLIDE

ガラ

HI, ASAHINA-SAN!

HUH?

243

244

I FIGURED YOU'D TURN UP HERE EVENTUALLY, SO I WAITED FOR YOU.

I STOPPED BY YOUR ROOM BEFORE, BUT YOU WEREN'T HOME.

HUH?

HEY, COME OVER HERE FOR A SEC!

I'LL WASH YOUR BACK.

UHH...!

UH...

ARE YOU STILL MAD AT ME?

SPLASH

AH...

NOT REALLY...

. . . . . .

SIGH... NO LUCK TODAY EITHER.

THEY ALL TURN ME DOWN THE MOMENT THEY HEAR "ONE DAY A WEEK."

CLOPPA

CLOPPA

UH...IS ASAHINA BACK YET?

DINNER WILL BE READY SOON. WHY DON'T YOU GO CHANGE?

AH... YEAH, HEY.

AH, YOU'RE BACK, YAMATO-KUN.

カ" SLIDE ニ"

A GIRL NAMED AMAMI-SAN CAME OVER A LITTLE BIT AGO.

I TOLD HER THAT SUZUKA-CHAN WASN'T HOME YET, AND SHE SAID SHE'D WAIT FOR HER IN THE BATH.

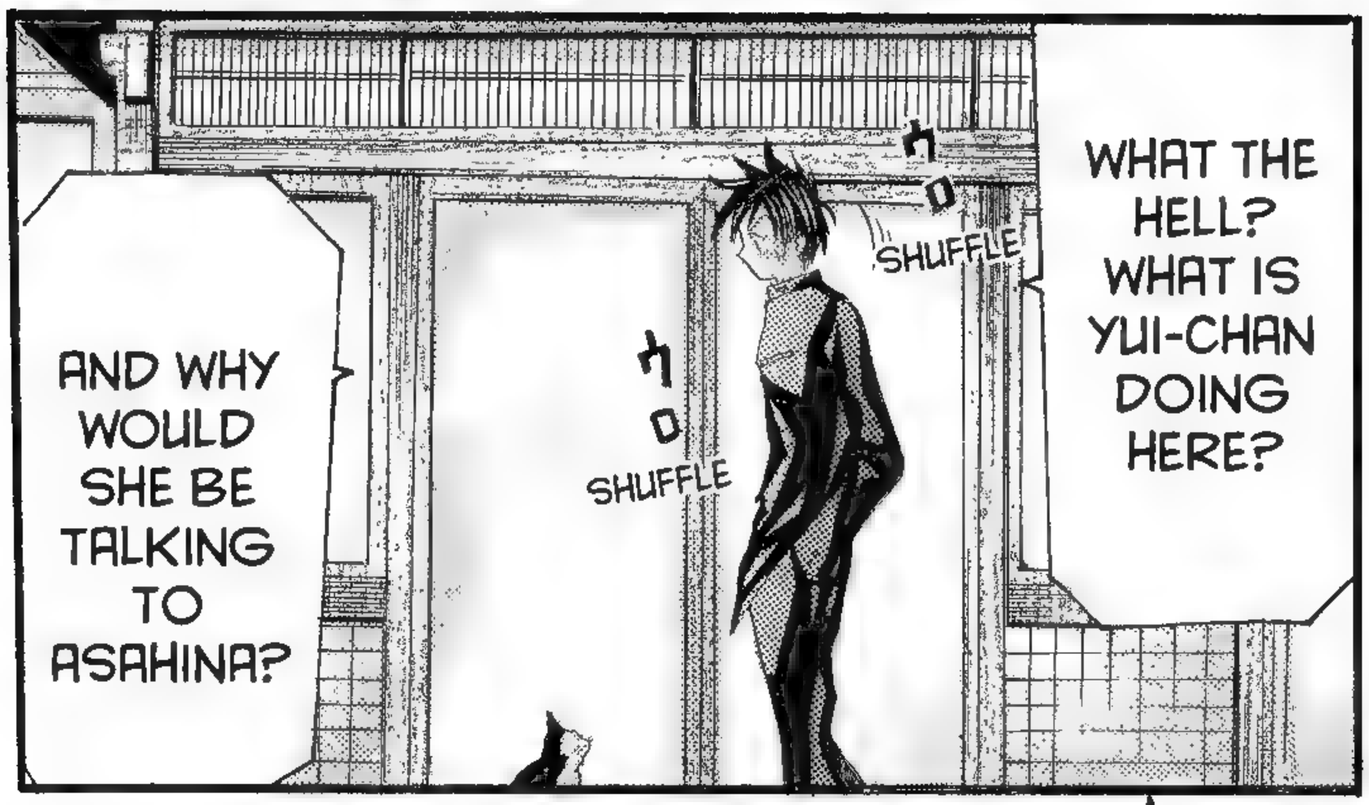
I THINK SHE'S TALKING TO HER FRIEND IN THE BATH.

ASAHI-YU BATHS

HUH? WHAT FRIEND?

WHAT?

.....


AND WHY WOULD SHE BE TALKING TO ASAHINA?
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
WHAT THE HELL? WHAT IS YUI-CHAN DOING HERE?

ASAHIYU BATHS

"MEOW"? I DON'T SPEAK KITTY CAT, FATSO.
MEOW
GRAB
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON, GORO-CHAN!!

SLIDE
?
THANKS FOR LETTING ME VISIT.

THUMP THUMP
THUMP THUMP
THIS IS CRAZY.
WHAT THE HELL IS TAKING THEM SO LONG?

AH...

AND ASAHINA...

Y-YUI-CHAN...

Y-YE—

YES?

HEY, YAMATO-KUN!!

W-
WHAT?

IT TURNS OUT...

...THAT I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO TRIED TO BOIL EGGS IN THE MICRO-WAVE!!

YEAH, EVERYBODY MAKES THAT MISTAKE.

YUI-CHAN HAS DONE IT, TOO.

SO THERE'S NOTHING WEIRD ABOUT ME.

NOT AT ALL. I LOVE TAKING LONG BATHS.

SORRY, IF I TALKED YOUR EAR OFF.

I HOPE I DIDN'T MAKE YOU STAY IN TOO LONG.

WHAT... OH...

UM... RIGHT... OKAY THEN...

AH... UH...

TRUST ME, I'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERY-THING.

WELL, BYE.

GOOD NIGHT, SUZUKA-CHAN.

I'LL E-MAIL YOU LATER!

OKAY, ME, TOO.

. . . . . .

SEE YA LATER!

YUI-CHAN IS REALLY COOL!

WHAT?

WE TOTALLY HIT IT OFF.

WHAT'S WITH YOU? YOU'VE HAD A WEIRD LOOK ON YOUR FACE THIS WHOLE TIME.

W-WELL, Y-YOU GUYS WERE...

BUT...

WHAT THE HELL WAS SHE DOING HERE?

UH.... OH YEAH?

ESPECIALLY WHEN WE WERE TALKING ABOUT COOKING. SHE'S JUST LIKE ME.

HEH HEH HEH

YOU CAN WORK AT YUI-CHAN'S PLACE IF YOU WANT.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.

HEY, YAMATO-KUN...

Y-YEAH?

IS THAT WHY YUI-CHAN CAME HERE?

WHAT...

D-DID SHE TELL YOU WHY?

WHAT?

D-DID YUI-CHAN...

...SAY ANY-THING... ABOUT ME?

NOT REALLY... SHE JUST TOLD ME YOU WERE LOOKING FOR A JOB WHERE YOU ONLY HAD TO WORK ONE DAY A WEEK.

.....

NO... SHE DIDN'T SAY ANY-THING ABOUT THAT.

OH... UHHH...

THEN WHY THE HELL IS SHE TELLING ME THAT I CAN WORK AT YUI-CHAN'S?

JUST MAKE SURE TO GIVE ME YOUR NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS, ONCE YOU GET YOUR COMPUTER...

OKAY?

WHAT...

BLUSH

.....!?

SO SHE TOLD YOU EVERY-THING!!

NO, SHE DIDN'T.

PHEW...

パラッ FLIP

I HOPE HE'S OKAY.

HE'D BETTER NOT SCREW THINGS UP.

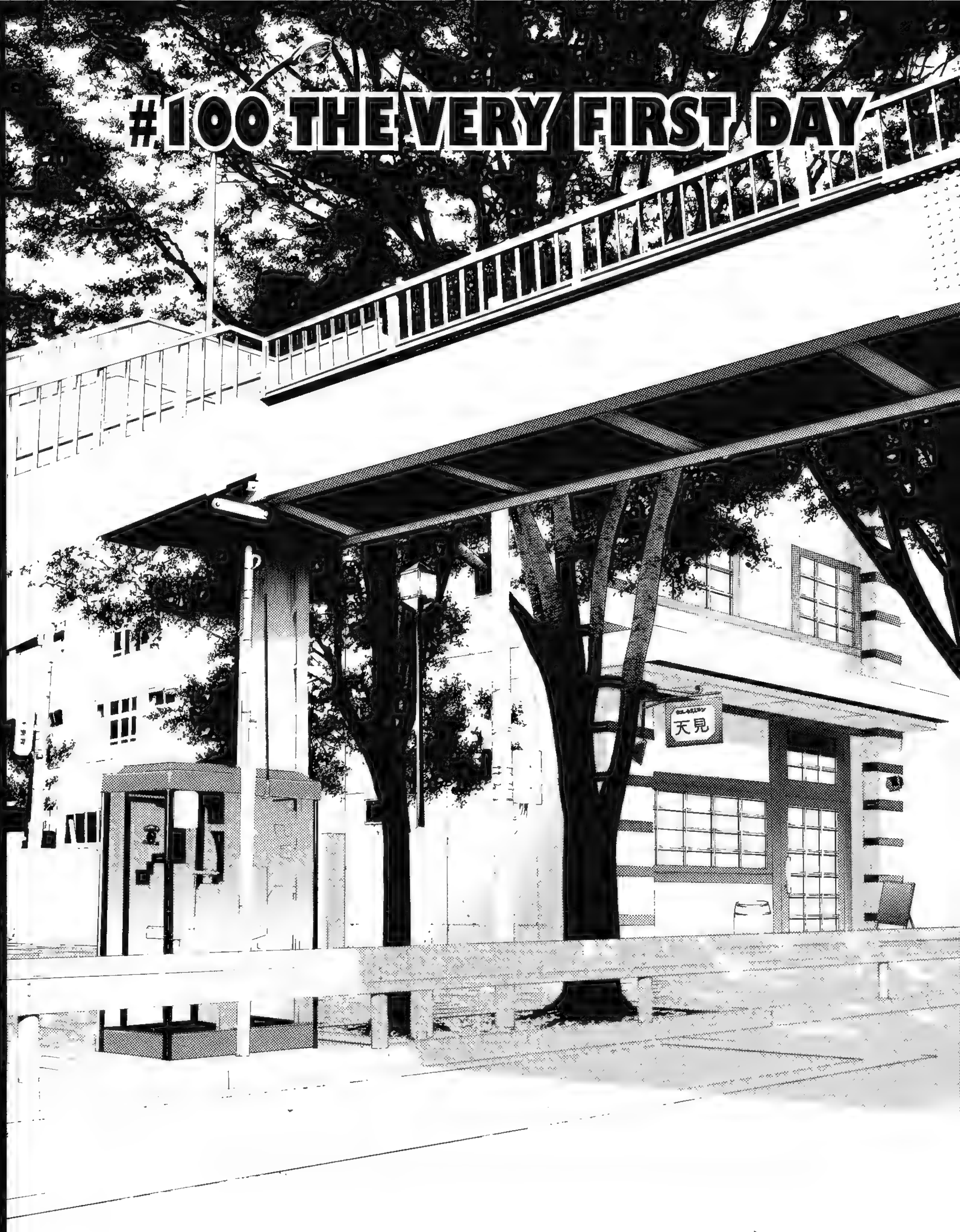
IT'S YAMATO-KUN'S FIRST DAY AT WORK...

Conversational English

WORKBOOK

SUZUKA

#100 THE VERY FIRST DAY



SUZUKA

YOU LOOK GREAT, YAMATO-KUN.

IT'S FINE!

café & Restaurant

Amami

NO, YOU DON'T.

I LOOK LIKE I'M DRESSED FOR SOME WEIRD PARTY OR SOME-THING.

R-REALLY?

R-REALLY?

THANKS.

AH, LOOKING SMART, YAMATO-KUN.

RIGHT?

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS WAIT ON CUSTOMERS WITH YUI.

IT'S YOUR FIRST DAY, SO JUST TAKE IT EASY.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, JUST ASK ME. I'M YOUR SENPAI NOW.

NOOB.

WAIT...

...ON CUS-TOMERS?

WHAT?

HOPE YOU CAN HANDLE THE JOB....

O-OKAY...

I WILL....

STAND UP STRAIGHT AND LOOK ALIVE.

WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT FIRING YOU!

I-I'LL DO THE BEST I CAN. I PROMISE TO STAND UP STRAIGHT FROM NOW ON. PLEASE DON'T FIRE ME!!

FWUMP

ALL RIGHT, YUI. YOU'RE IN CHARGE. I'VE GOTTA GET EVERY-THING READY.

OKAY!

Kalita

I REALLY NEED TO BUY A COM-PUTER.

GEEZ, DAD. DON'T SAY STUFF LIKE THAT. HE CAN'T TELL YOU'RE JOKING.

SORRY, DON'T WORRY. YOU'LL DO FINE.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THE ONLY JOB I'VE EVER HAD HAS BEEN CLEANING THE BATHS...

SHUDDER

カチーン

コチーン

SHUDDER

I HAVE TO WORK EXTRA HARD AND PROVE TO THEM THAT I CAN HANDLE THIS.

I CAN'T SCREW THIS UP!!

DING

カラーン

DONG

カラーン

HELLO!

YOU LOOK SO STIFF, YAMATO-KUN. YOU WON'T LAST A DAY UNLESS YOU RELAX A LITTLE.

O-OKAY.

SO...

...CUS-TOMER.

A...

SWUP
ガラッ

O-
OKAY.

GO
WAIT ON
THEM!

HUH??

AH...MY
NAME IS
YAMATO
AKITSUKI.
I'M NEW
HERE!!

UH...
WHERE'S
THE
USUAL
WAIT-
RESS?

H-
HELLO...

HEH...

UH-
HUH...
OKAY.

カチッ
CLICK

H-HOW
ARE YOU
TODAY?

THANKS!

HERE'S THE MENU.

AAHHH!! SORRY ABOUT THAT!!

ARE YOU GONNA GIVE ME A MENU OR WHAT?

WAHHH!!

TAPPA TAPPA

AH... YOU HAVE TO BRING HIM A GLASS OF WATER, TOO!

CHATTER

CHATTER

HEY, TAKE IT EASY, MAN...

HEE HEE

SORRY, SORRY!!

AH... OKAY!

CLANK

YAMATO-KUN. QUIT SPACING OUT.

TAKE THIS TO TABLE THREE.

SPACING OUT

UWAAH! IT'S SO CROWDED.

'CAUSE IT'S SUNDAY I GUESS.

WHAT?

HERE'S YOUR ICED-TEA!!

WAAHH!!

CRASH

AH... SORRY ABOUT THAT...

I DIDN'T ORDER ICED-TEA.

HUH?

THAT'S TABLE NUMBER TWO, YAMATO-KUN!!

WAAHH!!

.....!!

CRASH

CHECK PLEASE.

I'LL HANDLE THIS SECTION, YAMATO-KUN. GO WORK THE CASH REGISTER.

A-ALL RIGHT!!

UH...

OOPS... LET'S SEE HERE.

GUESS THAT WAS THE WRONG BUT-TON.

C'MON, HURRY IT UP, WILL YOU?

BEEP

CLICK

WAAHH!! I FORGOT HOW MUCH CHANGE I WAS SUPPOSED TO GIVE YOU.

SHOCK

SORRY ABOUT THAT. I'LL JUST USE THE CAL-CULATOR.

カチ TAP

カチ TAP

カチ TAP

カチ TAP

AND COULD YOU GIVE ME A RECEIPT? JUST MAKE IT OUT TO "UE-SAMA."

WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH ANY-THING?

SORRY, I'M NEW HERE, SO...

UE? THEY TEACH YOU THAT IN FIRST GRADE. YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO WRITE UE?

AH... WHAT'S THE KANJI FOR THAT?

UE-SAMA?

EXCUSE ME?

UH...DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW HOW TO WRITE A RECEIPT?

OH, C'MON, THIS IS GETTING RIDICU-LOUS!

I'M IN A HURRY.

AH...I'M REALLY SORRY!!

YUI-CHAN!! HELP!!

TAPPA

TAPPA

IT'S OKAY, YAMATO-KUN. I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT!!

TSSSS

GUESS I CAN'T BLAME 'EM. ALL I DID WAS GET IN THE WAY.

SO NOW I'M THE DISH-WASHER.

A CAFÉ? ARE YOU SURE?

YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN HANDLE IT, YAMATO-KUN?

I CAN'T THINK LIKE THAT.

NO!

. . . . . .

I GUESS I JUST WASN'T MADE FOR THIS KINDA JOB.

N-NO, I'M FINE!!

DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD OR YOU WON'T LAST. JUST RELAX.

YOU CAN TAKE A BREAK FIRST, SIR.

ARE YOU TIRED, YAMATO-KUN?

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A LITTLE BREAK.

I HAVEN'T BEEN ANY HELP AT ALL!!

NO, I CAN'T!!

WAAA!!

SLIP

WE'RE OUT OF CLEAN PLATES. HURRY UP, YAMATO-KUN!

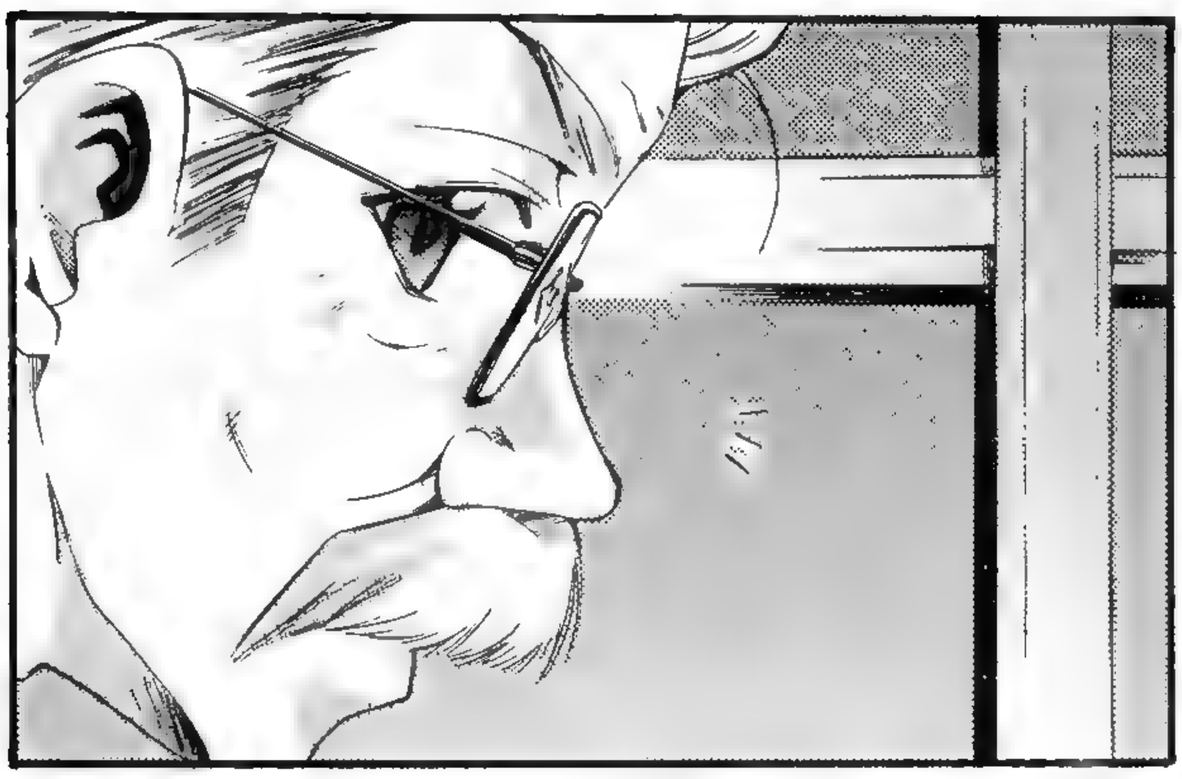
AH... SORRY!

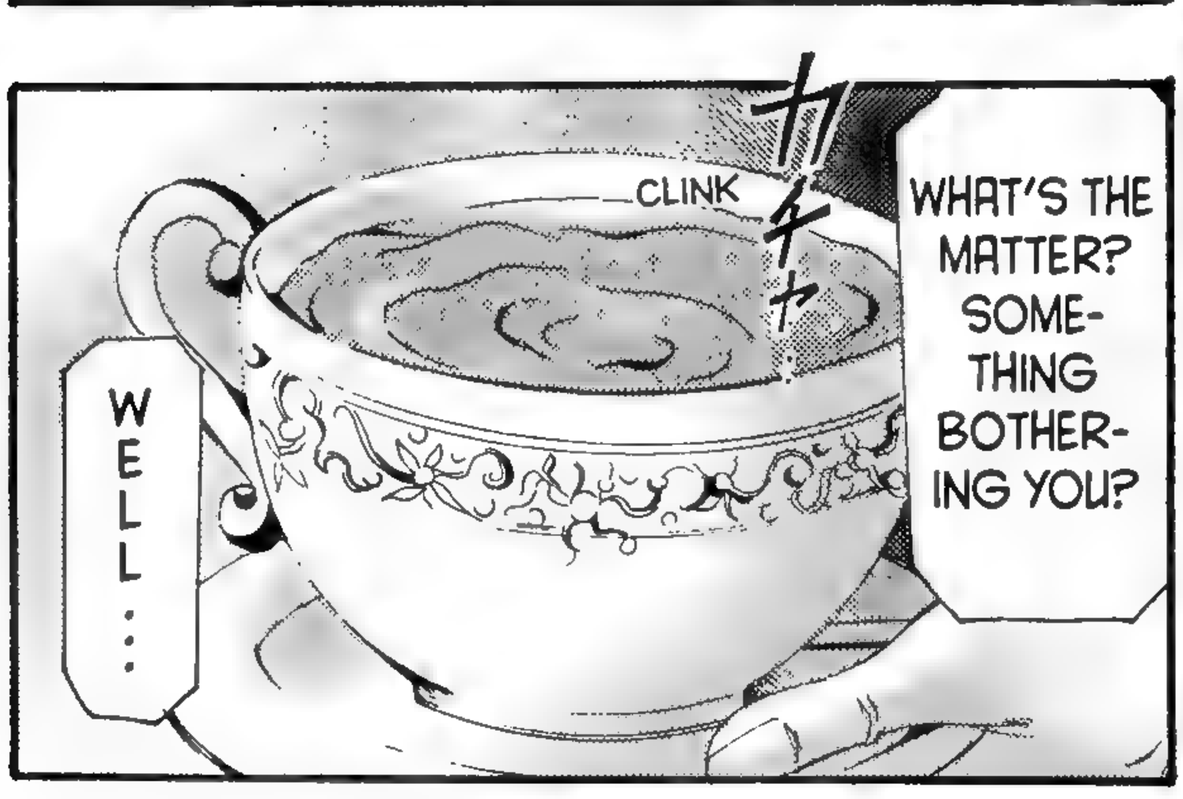
A-ARE YOU OKAY? SORRY. THAT WAS MY FAULT FOR RUSH-ING YOU.

CRASH

Café & Restaurant
Amami

OKAY...
GOOD WORK TODAY. I MADE SOME TEA. HOW ABOUT TAKING A LITTLE BREAK.




カチャ
CLINK
WHAT'S THE MATTER? SOME-THING BOTHER-ING YOU?
WELL...

WHAT...? WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT?

BECAUSE... HE BROKE SO MANY DISHES TODAY...

DAD...

ARE YOU MAD AT YAMATO-KUN?

SURE... AND...

R-REALLY?

HE JUST HAD THE FIRST DAY JITTERS.

YOU SEEM AWFULLY HAPPY WHEN HE'S AROUND.

I'LL GIVE HIM A LITTLE TIME. I CAN SEE THAT HE REALLY WANTS TO HELP OUT.

.....

SHUT UP, DAD!!

OH. TOUGH LUCK.

S-STOP IT, DAD!!

YAMATO-KUN ALREADY HAS A GIRLFRIEND!!

YOU'RE SUCH A KLUTZ. WHO GETS HURT THAT BAD JUST FROM WORKING AT A CAFÉ?

THERE YOU GO.

SWAP

パターン

ASAHIYU BATHS

.....

YOU'RE ONE TO TALK.

IT'S ONLY HARD 'CAUSE YOU'RE SUCH A KLUTZ.

SHUT UP!

OH, COME ON.

MAN, I'M BEAT.

NOTHING'S HARDER THAN THE FIRST DAY OF A NEW JOB.

#11

FALUMP

I HOPE YOU DON'T GET FIRED.

GEEZ, WHAT'S NEXT WEEK GONNA BE LIKE?

S-SAY SOME-THING. WHAT'S WITH YOU? ARE YOU MAD AT ME?

. . . . . .

DID YOU FALL ASLEEP?

DRIBBLE ズル ズル…

ZZZZ

……

I'M SORRY…

MUMBLE MUMBLE

SLEEP TIGHT...

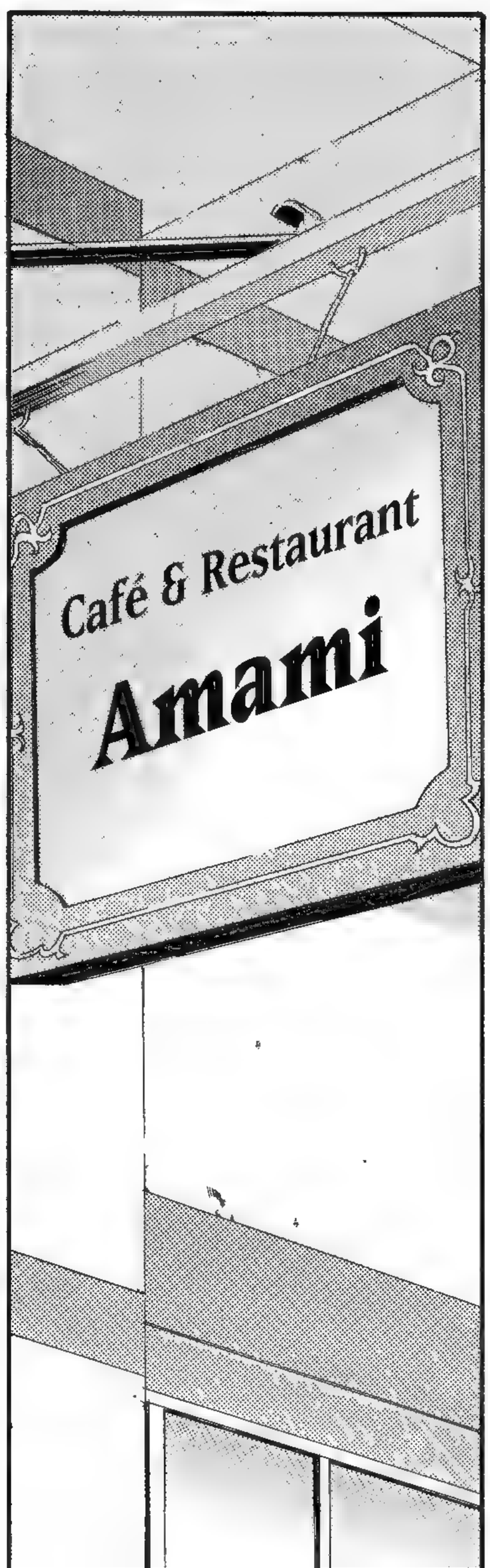
YAMATO-KUN.

#101 SKILLS

SUZUKA

Café & Restaurant
Amami

CAN I GET THE CHECK?
EXCUSE ME, COULD I GET A GLASS OF WATER?
AH... SURE.
RIGHT AWAY, SIR.


Café & Restaurant
Amami

PHEW...

THANKS FOR WORKING ALL DAY, YAMATO-KUN. I KNOW YOU'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF SPRING BREAK.

NO PROBLEM. I DIDN'T HAVE PRACTICE TODAY ANYWAY.

YOU'RE REALLY GETTING THE HANG OF WORK-ING HERE.

YOU'RE A BIG HELP.

THANK YOU.

WELL, I'M STILL TRYING TO GET A FEEL FOR THINGS, BUT...

FINALLY, THINGS HAVE QUIETED DOWN A LITTLE.

. . . . ?

WHAT?

I'LL FIX SOME LUNCH FOR YOU GUYS, NOW THAT I'VE GOT SOME TIME.

I'LL GO DO SOME SHOPPING WHILE YOU EAT!!

WELL...WHY DON'T I HANG UP THE CLOSED SIGN FOR NOW AND YOU GUYS CAN RELAX AND ENJOY YOUR MEAL TOGETHER.

OH... D-DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I KNOW YOU WANT TO COOK FOR YAMATO-KUN, BUT JUST RELAX. I'LL MAKE US SOME LUNCH LIKE I ALWAYS DO.

FWISH

THEN I'LL JUST MAKE ENOUGH FOR YAMATO-KUN AND ME ...

REALLY ...

I CAN MAKE IT. WE PROBABLY WON'T HAVE ANY MORE CUS-TOMERS ANYWAY.

HUH?

SORRY, YAMATO-KUN... MY BLOOD PRESSURE HAS BEEN A LITTLE HIGH LATELY, SO...

ALL RIGHT!

YUI CHAN'S HOME COOKING...

I'LL WHIP UP SOMETHING REALLY TASTY!

YOU JUST WAIT, YAMATO-KUN.

FLIP

CLOSED

YEAH, YOU'RE GONNA LOVE IT.

SOUNDS GOOD.

BUBBLE

BUBBLE

I WONDER WHAT SHE'S MAKING.

AH...

PLUNK
コト

YOU CAN HAVE AS MUCH AS YOU WANT!

ALL RIGHT! FINALLY. I'M STARVING!!

STEP

HERE YOU GO, YAMATO-KUN!

SLOP

MINE-STRONE SOUP...?

WHY IS THERE KONBU SEA-WEED IN IT?

AND WHAT'S WITH THE FISH HEADS AND BONES AND STUFF?

TA-DA!! IT'S MINESTRONE SOUP!!

HAVE A SEAT.

IT'S NOT MUCH OF A SECRET. THEY'RE ALL STICKING OUT.

TEE-HEE. YOU NO-TICED?

IT'S MY SECRET INGREDI-ENT!!

SHE'S EATING IT...

THIS IS SO GOOD!

YUM

もくもく CHOMP CHOMP

KONBU REALLY IS AMAZING!!

W-WELL, MAYBE IT'S NOT AS BAD AS IT LOOKS!!

KONBU BROTH REALLY DOES GO WELL WITH EVERY-THING.

SORRY ABOUT THAT, YAMATO-KUN!! I'M REALLY SORRY!!

Café & Restaurant

Amami

BUT I'M PRETTY SURE THAT WAS JUST WRONG.

I'VE NEVER BEEN TO ITALY...

BURP

ヒョイ

FWUP

HEY! QUIT SLACKING OFF, YOU TWO!

WELL, SHE'S NOT TOO PICKY WHEN IT COMES TO FOOD, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

WHAT CAN I SAY... HERE... WANT SOME HEART-BURN TABLETS?

?

YOU KNOW, IT'S PRETTY SLOW TODAY, SO...

WHY DON'T I MAKE YOU DINNER, TOO?

FLUP

FLUP

IT'S OKAY, YAMATO-KUN. WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A LITTLE BREAK.

AH... SORRY...

CAN YOU COOK?

REALLY?

I'LL MAKE DINNER!!

SURE I CAN!! NO PROBLEM. AND I REALLY WANT YOU TO TRY MY COOKING.

THAT'S A GREAT IDEA!! WHY DON'T YOU LET HIM COOK, YUI?

A-ALL RIGHT... IF YOU SAY SO...

YEAH! THAT'S AN EX-CELLENT IDEA!!

FWUP

CHOP

CHOP

CHOP

OKONOMIYAKI!

WOW. YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD AT THAT, YAMATO-KUN!

WHAT ARE YOU MAK-ING?

HUH?

WOW, YOUR MOM COOKS LIKE THAT?

Okonomiyaki Sauce

NO WAY!! YOU CAN MAKE THAT ALL BY YOUR-SELF?

WELL, I'M KINDA IMPROVISING. THIS IS HOW MY MOM USED TO COOK. SHE ALWAYS JUST THREW SOMETHING TOGETHER WITH WHATEVER WAS LYING AROUND.

WELL...

ACTU-ALLY...

AH... YEAH, I GUESS MY FAMILY IS KINDA WEIRD.

I'M SURE YOUR MOM IS A MUCH BETTER COOK.

MY MOM PASSED AWAY, SO...

SHE DIED RIGHT AFTER I WAS BORN...

SHE ALWAYS HAD A WEAK CONSTI-TUTION, AND...

OH...

OH... UH...

I'M SORRY...

WHY ARE YOU APOLO-GIZING?

...DOESN'T SEEM BOTHERED BY IT, SO...

SHE...

WELL... UH...

YOU'RE RIGHT... NEVER MIND...

.....?

AH... OH YEAH!

DO YOU HAVE OKO-NOMIYAKI SAUCE AND AO-NORI SEAWEED FLAKES?

HUH...? UH...LET'S SEE...

YOU'RE FUNNY.

NO, I WANT TO DO THIS RIGHT.

YOU JUST WAIT HERE, OKAY?

I SHOULD'VE KNOWN SHE COULDN'T COOK. SHE TRIED TO BOIL EGGS IN THE MICROWAVE JUST LIKE ASAHINA.

. . . . . .

CAN YOU USE THIS WORCES-TERSHIRE SAUCE AND PARSLEY INSTEAD? I'VE GOT SOME DRIED BASIL, TOO.

OH...YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT.

I'LL GO RUN TO THE STORE AND BUY SOME.

AH...

KONBU

OH AND... JUST SO YOU KNOW, YOU DON'T PUT KONBU SEAWEED IN OKONOMI-YAKI.

OKAY.

YEP, SHE'S AT *LEAST* AS BAD AS ASAHINA WHEN IT COMES TO COOKING.

PLEASE, DON'T START COOKING ANYTHING TILL I GET BACK, OKAY?

YOU SAW IT?

YES, IT DOES LOOK PRETTY GOOD.

I'M IM-PRESSED.

HUH? ...REALLY?

S-SURE.

HEY, CAN I EAT NOW, PLEASE?

IT LOOKS AMAZING!!

WOW...

THIS IS SO GOOD!!

KYAA!

Café & Restau

Amam

AH, YOU, TOO, BOSS. GO AHEAD AND START.

AH, THANK YOU. I WILL.

Y-YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?

REALLY?

GLARE

...ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THAT YOU DIDN'T USE A RECIPE.

THIS REALLY IS EXCELLENT.

I THINK IT'S EVEN BETTER THAN WHAT I MADE.

UH... YEAH...?

AH... THANKS.

YOU'RE AMAZING, YAMATO-KUN.

YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD COOK!

AH YEAH, I DID... YOU CAN TELL?

OH, LOOKS LIKE YOU PUT SOME MOUNTAIN POTATO IN THE BATTER, HUH?

TH-THAT'S WHAT I WAS TRYING TO TELL YOU.

N-NOBODY'S EVER COMPLIMENTED ME LIKE THIS BEFORE.

YEAH. I WANNA TRY MORE OF YAMATO-KUN'S COOKING.

MAYBE I'LL PUT YAMATO-KUN IN CHARGE OF MAKING LUNCH FROM NOW ON.

WHAT...?

ピク

PLINK

カタッ

SWUP

AH...I ALMOST FOR-GOT!

THE DESSERT!!

R-REALLY?

WELL, I GUESS I COULD GIVE IT A TRY...!!

IT'S ICE CREAM!!

TA-DA! I HAD SOME FREE TIME, SO I MADE THIS.

WHAT ARE THOSE LIT-TLE BITS IN THERE, CHOCO-LATE CHIPS?

IT'S KONBU !!

I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE.

WAHHH...

SAY "AHH"!

N-NO THANKS.

C'MON, JUST TASTE IT!

IT'S REALLY REFRESH-ING!!

S-SHE'S ACTUALLY...

IT'S SALTY!!

...WORSE THAN ASAHINA!!

天見

ACHOO

PLINK

Everyday English Vocabulary

#102 RELIEF

MY NAME IS SOUICHI MIYAMOTO.

I'M THE CAPTAIN OF THE AOBA HIGH SCHOOL TRACK TEAM.

LET ME MAKE ONE THING CLEAR. I DON'T BELIEVE IN ROBOTIC, MILITARY-STYLE TRAINING.

OUR TRAINING MAY BE TOUGH.

BUT IF WE CAN GET JUST ONE MORE ATHLETE INTO THIS SUMMER'S I.H. MEET, THEN IT'LL ALL BE WORTH IT. SO I WANT YOU GUYS TO GIVE IT EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT, OKAY?

YEAH!

I GUESS HE'S HAPPY TO SEE ALL THESE NEW FRESHMEN.

YEAH, MAYBE.

OH YEAH?

CAPTAIN MIYAMOTO IS ALL FIRED UP TODAY.

C'MON... YAMATO-KUN. YOU'D BETTER LOOK ALIVE.

JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A SOPHOMORE NOW, DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN SLACK OFF. YOU DON'T WANNA SEE THE FRESHMEN PASS YOU BY NOW DO YA?

THWAP

?

BUT ASAHINA ISN'T GONNA BE IN I.H. THIS YEAR AND...

YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT...

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO TODAY, KINUGASA-SENPAI?

I JUST FINISHED MY UNIVERSITY'S FRESHMEN ORIENTATION, AND I THOUGHT I'D COME CHECK UP ON YOU GUYS.

IT'S APRIL, MAN. ISN'T IT A LITTLE COLD FOR A TANK TOP?

ESPECIALLY YOU, YAMATO. I KNOW YOU'LL START SLACKING IF I DON'T KEEP AN EYE ON YOU.

SQUISH

SQUISH

I'M NOT SLACKING OFF!! I'M NOT!

WHAT THE HELL KIND OF ATTITUDE IS THAT, YOU WUSS!

CRUSH

HUH? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...?

HE DOESN'T EVEN GO TO SCHOOL HERE ANYMORE...

UHH.....

LISTEN! ASAHINA'S GONNA BE STUDYING ABROAD, SO...

I NEED YOU IN THE I.H. MEET THIS YEAR FOR SURE!!

SO SHE'S OVER AT THE ADIREX COM-PANY'S TRAIN-ING FIELD TODAY.

THEY'RE DOING A SPECIAL TRAINING SESSION WITH ALL THE ATHLETES WHO ARE GOING ABROAD.

HMMM?

.....

YA HEAR THAT? WHILE YOU'RE HERE SLACKING OFF, SHE'S PUSHING HERSELF HARDER AND HARDER.

HEY, WHERE IS ASAHINA ANYWAY? I DON'T SEE HER.

TELL ME ABOUT IT.

WOO

WOO

FWEESH

STEP

STEP

PHEW...

AH...

I WAS WATCHING YOUR JUMP, AND I THINK YOU'RE RELYING TOO MUCH ON SPEED....

...AT THE EXPENSE OF YOUR RHYTHM.

TRY TO CONCENTRATE A LITTLE MORE ON RHYTHM AS YOU JUMP.

GOT A SECOND, ASAHINA-SAN?

AH... SURE!

ALL RIGHT, I'LL TRY AGAIN!

AND REALLY TRY TO VISUALIZE THE ENTIRE JUMP BEFORE YOU TAKE OFF, OKAY?

OKAY!

ヒョコ
YOINK

WOW...

DAMN...

SO, THIS IS WHERE ASAHINA'S BEEN PRACTIC-ING...

THEY'VE GOT SOME REALLY AMAZING ATHLETES HERE.

HUH?

ARE THEY GOING ABROAD, TOO?

THESE ARE ALL TOP-RANKING GUYS FROM LAST YEAR'S I.H. MEET.

I GUESS HE *WOULD* BE HERE. I MEAN, HE DID WIN THE 100-METER RUN.

チ
TCH

WELL...

DAMN...I HOPE ASAHINA CAN HOLD HER OWN AGAINST ALL THESE GUYS.

. . . . . .

WHOOSH

ARIMA...

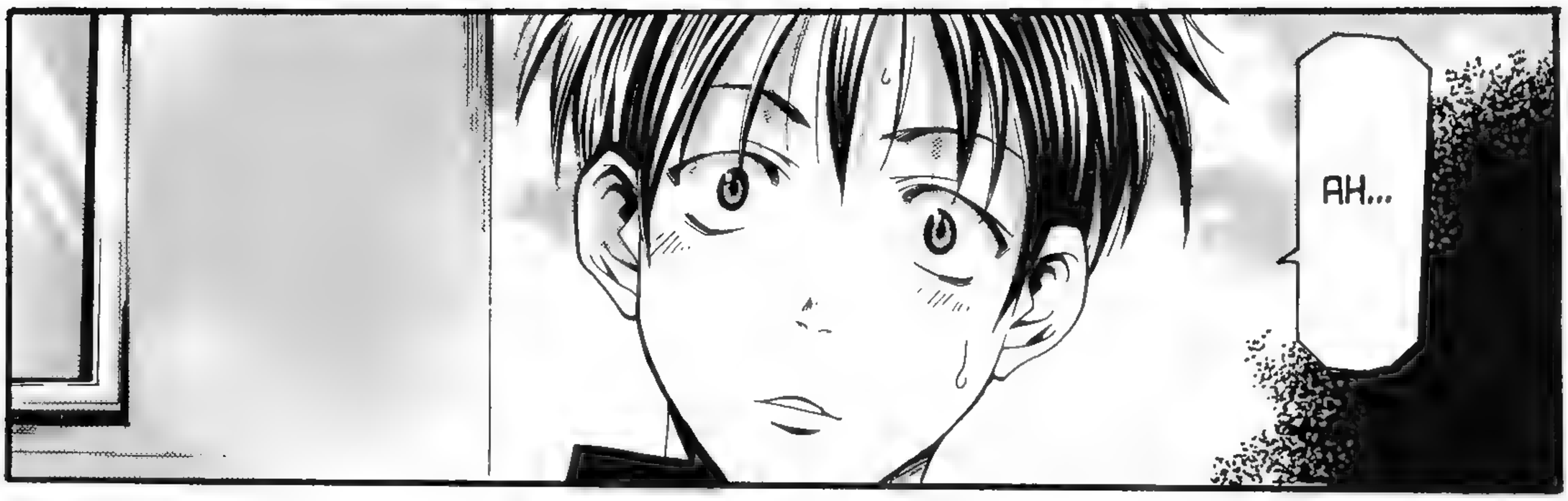
PWUFF

BUT, I'D BETTER GET GOING BEFORE SHE CATCHES ME SPYING ON HER LIKE THIS.

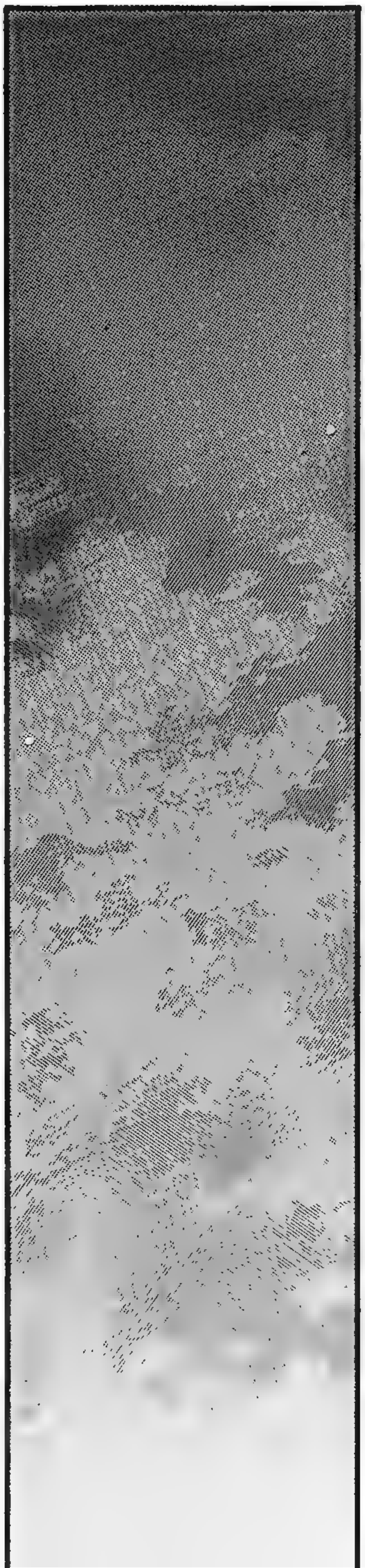
SHE'S A TOP-CLASS ATHLETE. I SHOULDN'T EVEN WORRY ABOUT HER.

WHAT AM I THINK-ING...?

SHE'LL BE FINE.


AH...

EYE CLINIC NARIMASU
CLOPPA
CLOPPA
CLOPPA
CLOPPA
CLOPPA



MAYBE SHE'S ANNOYED THAT I CAME OUT HERE.

WH-WHY WON'T SHE SAY ANY-THING?

CLOP

CLOP

OH, UH...

WHAT?

HEY, CAN WE STOP BY THE PARK ON OUR WAY HOME?

Hikarigaoka Park North Entrance

SURE...

EVEN GETTING YELLED AT WOULD BE BETTER THAN THIS AWKWARD SILENCE.

OKAY, WE'RE HERE, NOW WOULD YOU JUST SAY SOMETHING?

HEY...

UH...

コツン!
PLUP

HUH?

アー…
TSSSWAAA

I'M SO TIRED...

I MEAN, ALL THE OTHER ATHLETES WERE SO MUCH BETTER THAN ME.

I APPRECIATE HEARING EVERYONE'S ADVICE AND STUFF, BUT...

WELL, YOU KNOW HOW I AM...I JUST PREFER TO BE LEFT ALONE.

WHAT...?

I WAS TRYING TO ACT TOUGH SO THAT NOBODY WOULD SEE HOW NERVOUS I WAS, BUT...

AS SOON AS I SAW YOUR FACE...

...I JUST TOTALLY RELAXED AND LET GO.

...COMING HERE WASN'T SUCH A BAD IDEA AFTER ALL...

WELL...MAYBE...

AH... REALLY?

SO, EVEN ASAHINA GETS NERVOUS SOME-TIMES...

Y-YEAH... BUT...

W-WELL. DO YOU WANT TO HEAD HOME?

YOU SHOULD GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP.

CAN WE STAY HERE... JUST A LITTLE BIT LONGER?

WHAT?

IT'S JUST THAT

.....

THE CHERRY BLOS-SOMS ARE...SO BEAUTI-FUL...

AH... YEAH...

...THEY SURE ARE.

#103 THE FUTURE

SUZUKA

WOW, THIS IS AMAZING!

THIS DETERGENT REALLY WORKS.

FWUPPA—

TA-DAH! LOOK AT THIS RAG, IT'S TOTALLY BLACK!

I WAS SUSPICIOUS AT FIRST, BUT THIS AMERICAN DETERGENT REALLY IS AMAZING!!

WOW. YOU'RE SURE IN A GOOD MOOD, YUI-CHAN...

HUH...

NO, I'M FINE.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, YAMATO-KUN? YOU LOOK KINDA DOWN.

WHAT?

NO, THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL.

OH, I KNOW.

ASAHINA IS BUSY WITH HER ENGLISH CLASSES ANY-WAY, SO EVEN IF I WASN'T WORKING WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO HANG OUT.

OH MY GOD. THIS TABLE'S TOTALLY FILTHY.

ARE YOU EVEN LISTEN-ING?

YOU'RE SAD BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO WORK WEEKENDS AND YOU DON'T GET TO SEE SUZUKA-CHAN, RIGHT?

AH... HELLO!

DING DONG

カラン

カラン

HEY, GUYS!

WORKING HARD, AKITSUKI?

HI!

A-ASAHINA!

AND HASHIBA?

AH... WELL...

IT'S MIKI'S DAY OFF, AND SHE REALLY WANTED TO COME SEE WHERE YOU WORK, SO IT'S NO BIG DEAL.

W-WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

SHOULDN'T YOU BE AT YOUR ENGLISH CLASS?

CHATTER

NICE TO MEET YOU, I'M MIKI HASHIBA. I'M A FRIEND OF SUZUKA'S.

CHATTER

HI, I'M YUI AMAMI. NICE TO MEET YOU!

I-ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

TEE-HEE

REALLY? I DID?

UH... SURE...

YUI CHAN IS PRETTY CUTE, HUH?

WELL, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A LOAD OFF. HAVE A SEAT!

WHAT CAN I GET YOU TO DRINK?

UM... I'LL HAVE A MELON SODA PLEASE.

OF COURSE NOT.

YOU'RE NOT MESSING AROUND WITH HER, ARE YOU?

YEAH!

IT'S A REALLY NICE PLACE. IT'S SO LAID BACK.

WE GET REALLY BUSY IN THE EVENING THOUGH.

HMM...

SO THIS IS WHERE YAMATO-KUN WORKS.

HEH... WELL...

YAMATO KUN HAS BEEN A GREAT HELP.

REALLY? ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT GETTING IN THE WAY, YAMATO-KUN?

NO WAY. I MADE OKONOMIYAKI FOR LUNCH AND YUI-CHAN AND HER DAD LOVED IT.

NO WAY.

I'M SERIOUS!! RIGHT, YUI-CHAN?

WHY DON'T YOU MAKE SOME FOR THEM? IT'S SLOW RIGHT NOW ANYWAY.

YEAH!

THAT'S A GREAT IDEA!!

ALL RIGHT!! JUST WATCH, GUYS. YOU'LL SEE.

YEAH. I'VE GOTTA SEE THIS.

HI A~!

CLANK

YAMATO-KUN SURE LOOKS HAPPY TO SEE YOU.

R-REALLY?

YOU'RE GOING TO AMER-ICA!

I COULD NEVER DO THAT!

YOU'RE SO AMAZING, SUZUKA-CHAN!

WHAT? WHY?

SURE, YOU COULD. LOTS OF PEOPLE STUDY ABROAD NOWADAYS.

REALLY?

I WANT TO GET MY CULINARY LICENSE AFTER GRADUATION...

SO I CAN TAKE OVER THE CAFÉ SOMEDAY.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, YUI-CHAN? WHAT DO YOU WANNA DO AFTER SCHOOL?

HUH... ME?

. . . . . .

I KNOW SHE MEANS WELL, BUT...

ARE YOU REALLY GONNA LET HER DO THAT?

WHAT?

UH... YUI...

I THINK YOU SHOULD GO OUT IN THE WORLD...YOU KNOW...GET SOME REAL LIFE EXPERIENCE.

NO WAY!

I'M STAYING RIGHT HERE!

IT'S GOOD TO TRY DIFFERENT THINGS WHILE YOU'RE YOUNG. NOTHING CAN BETTER PREPARE YOU FOR THE FUTURE.

I'M SURE YOU'LL DISCOVER ALL KINDS OF OPPORTUNITIES.

WELL, HE'S GETTING ON IN YEARS, YOU KNOW.

YOU'RE SO SWEET TO YOUR DAD.

BESIDES, I COULD NEVER LEAVE YOU ALONE HERE, DAD! I'D BE WORRIED SICK!

I'LL WORK REALLY HARD AND DO ALL THE COOK-ING, TOO. YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS.

PLUNK

SO TELL ME...

UH... THANKS...

WELL...THEY HAVE MUCH HIGHER STANDARDS OVER THERE.

WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO GO STUDY ABROAD?

I MEAN, YOU COULD TRAIN HERE JUST AS EASILY, RIGHT?

...THAN IF I JUST STAYED IN JAPAN.

I'M SURE I'LL GET A LOT MORE OUT OF TRAINING ABROAD...

I WAS JUST WON-DER-ING...

...IF YOU WERE IN A HURRY FOR SOME REASON.

BUT YOU CAN ALWAYS DO THAT AFTER YOU FINISH HIGH SCHOOL, RIGHT?

WELL... YEAH, I GUESS BUT...

.....

CHATTER

CHATTER

.....

STOP BUGGING ME!!

HEY, LOOK! WHAT IS THAT, A PASTA MACHINE?

SHOW ME HOW TO USE IT?

Y-YOU PROMISE YOU WON'T TELL ANY-BODY...?

YEAH, I PROM-ISE!

PLUNK

-/!!

YEP.

OH MY GOD. D-DID YOU REALLY MAKE THIS, YAMATO-KUN?

YAY! LET'S EAT!

O-OKAY...

HURRY UP AND EAT...

...BEFORE IT GETS COLD!!

...!

11°

7½

CHOMP

AH

MY DAD LIKED IT, TOO!

...

WHOA, EVEN A PRO-FESSIONAL CHEF WAS IMPRESSED!

HEH...

WOW, IT'S SUPER GOOD!!

I-IT'S REALLY GOOD...

SEE? I TOLD YOU!

...

I WISH YOU WOULD TAKE YOUR TRAINING THIS SERIOUSLY.

YEAH.

AWW, THEY'RE LIKE TWO LITTLE LOVE-BIRDS.

W-WAIT... THAT'S MINE!! GIVE IT BACK. DON'T YOU WANT ME TO EAT IT?

CLATTER

CLATTER

OKAY, THAT'S IT. HAND OVER THE OKONOMI-YAKI!!

SORRY. MIKI AND I ACTUALLY HAVE PLANS, SO...

YOU GUYS ARE GOING HOME ALREADY?

BUT YOU JUST GOT HERE.

Café & Restaurant

Amami

. . . . . .

I'LL COME VISIT AGAIN SOME-TIME.

YOU'LL MAKE ME LUNCH AGAIN, RIGHT?

SEE YOU LATER, YAMATO-KUN...

AH... OKAY...

THAT'S GREAT, YAMATO-KUN. SHE SAID SHE'D COME BACK TO SEE YOU.

WHAT...?

CLOPPA

Café & Restaurant

SURE, ANY-TIME!

THANKS FOR LUNCH.

GEEZ, AKITSUKI... DON'T BE SO SMUG.

Y-YEAH, I GUESS. IF YOU REALLY LIKED IT THAT MUCH...

NOPE. I'M GONNA BE LATE.

SUZUKA, IT'S AFTER FOUR O'CLOCK. WHAT ABOUT YOUR ENGLISH CLASS? ARE YOU GONNA MAKE IT ON TIME?

au

16:05

FWHOOSH

FWOOSH

FWOOSH

ALL RIGHT.

SEE YA.

THANKS FOR HANGING OUT WITH ME TODAY. I'D BETTER RUN!

GOD...

SUZUKA AND YAMATO-KUN CAN BE SUCH A PAIN IN THE BUTT.

I'VE GOTTA WORK HARDER... JUST LIKE SUZUKA-CHAN.

YEAH!

OKAY! IT'S GONNA GET BUSY IN HERE IN A FEW MINUTES. YOU READY?

IT'S LIKE GOING TO FRANCE OR CHINA TO LEARN HOW TO COOK OR SOME-THING...

I MEAN, SHE'S GOING ALL THE WAY TO AMERICA, JUST TO TRAIN FOR THE HIGH JUMP...

YEAH, BUT SHE WORKS TOO HARD!

WELL, MAYBE THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN THAT.

HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

. . . . . .

...YOU MEAN OTHER THAN TRAINING FOR THE HIGH JUMP?

.....?

CLINK

CLINK

SUZUKA-CHAN HAS OTHER REASONS FOR GOING ABROAD...

WELL, MAYBE...

PLAP

110

WHAT...? IT WAS JUST A FEELING THOUGH, RIGHT?

WELL, I DON'T KNOW...

I JUST HAD THAT FEELING...

UH... WHAT IS IT?

IT'S A JUICE BLEND, WITH FRUITS, VEGGIES AND KONBU SEAWEED!!

UM...ALL I SMELL IS THE KONBU...

OH, YOU KNOW WHAT? I WAS THINKING ABOUT ADDING THIS NEW DRINK TO THE MENU.

WANNA TRY IT?

OKAY, FINE.

BLEAH! WAHHH... IT'S GROSS!!

OH, JUST SHUT UP AND DRINK IT!!

天見

EXCUSE ME, COULD I GET ANOTHER COFFEE?

Café & Restaurant

Amami

HERE'S YOUR MILK TEA!

COM-ING RIGHT UP.

ㄅㄧㄥ WHOOSH

ㄅㄧㄥ WHOOSH

HA HA... SHE SURE DOES.

YUI-CHAN LOOKS SO HAPPY.

A SPECIAL SOMEONE HAS BEEN COMING IN ONCE A WEEK... AND TODAY'S THE DAY.

"A SPECIAL SOME-ONE"?

#104 LAUNDRY

SUZUKA

AH!

FWAP

SORRY...

I'M LATE!!

I CAME STRAIGHT HERE FROM PRACTICE. I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO GO HOME.

I'M SO SORRY. THIS STUPID EX-TEAM CAPTAIN WOULDN'T LET ME LEAVE...

YOU'RE NOT USUALLY SO LATE, YAMATO-KUN. DID YOU'RE PRAC-TICE GO LONG?

OKAY.

TODAY'S GONNA BE BUSY.

I'LL GO CHANGE RIGHT NOW!

CHATTER
ザワ
CHATTER
ザワ

WHAT ARE YOU TALK-ING ABOUT?

YOU TWO MAKE A CUTE COUPLE. NOW YOUR DAD CAN RETIRE AND REST EASY.

YAMATO-KUN ALREADY HAS A GIRL-FRIEND.

YEAH.

THANKS, COME AGAIN!

OH, REALLY?

WILL YOU RUN THE CASH REGISTER PLEASE, YAMATO-KUN?

SURE.

OH, AND TABLE TWO ORDERED A COFFEE.

OKAY!

THAT'S OKAY.

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A BREAK?

UH... BUT...

I'LL WASH THE DISHES.

CLINK カチャ

AH... JUST LEAVE 'EM. I'LL DO IT.

ALL RIGHT...

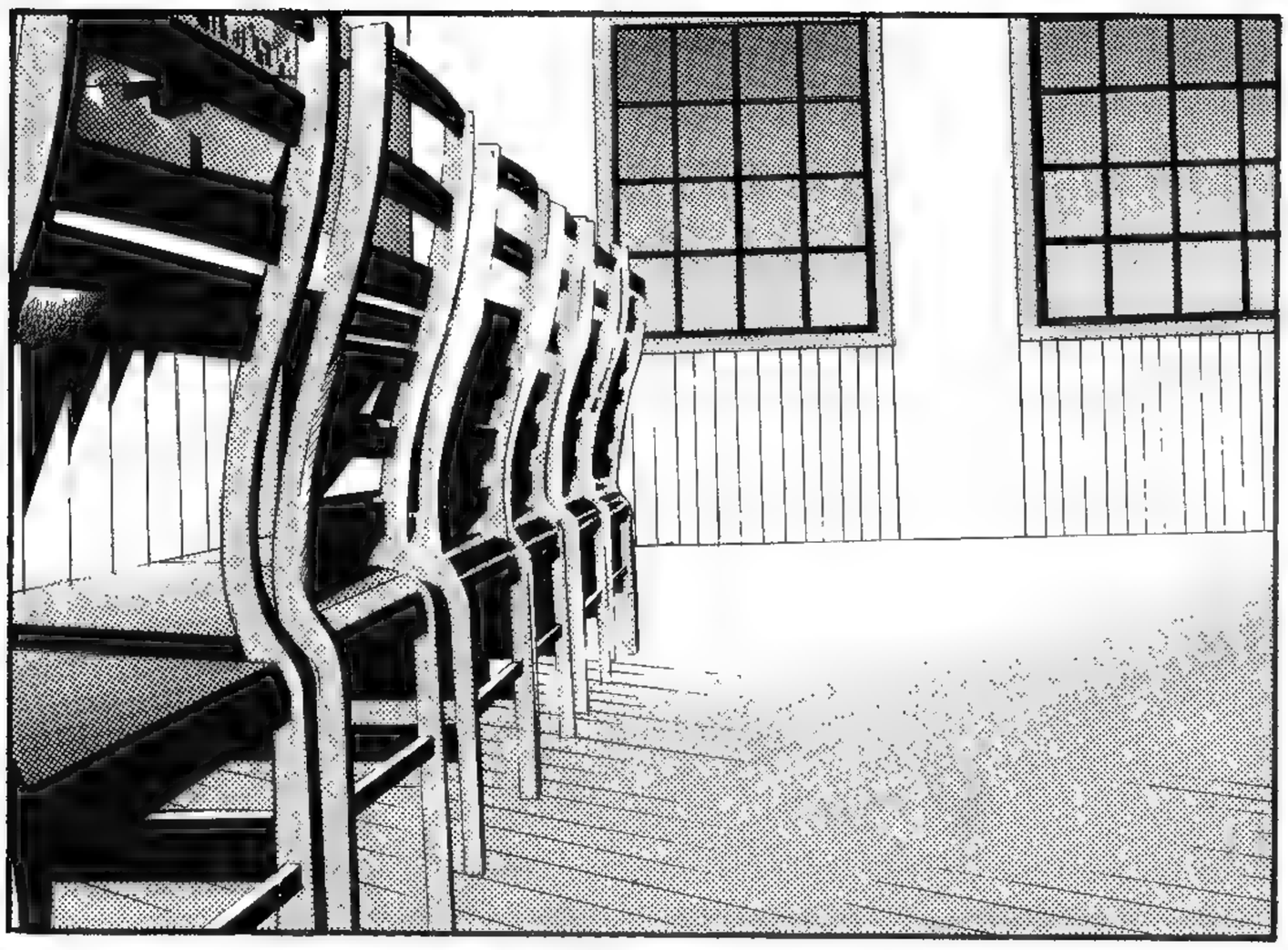
THANKS.

GO AHEAD! IT'S SLOW RIGHT NOW ANYWAY.

BESIDES, I NEED TO MAKE UP FOR BEING SO LATE.

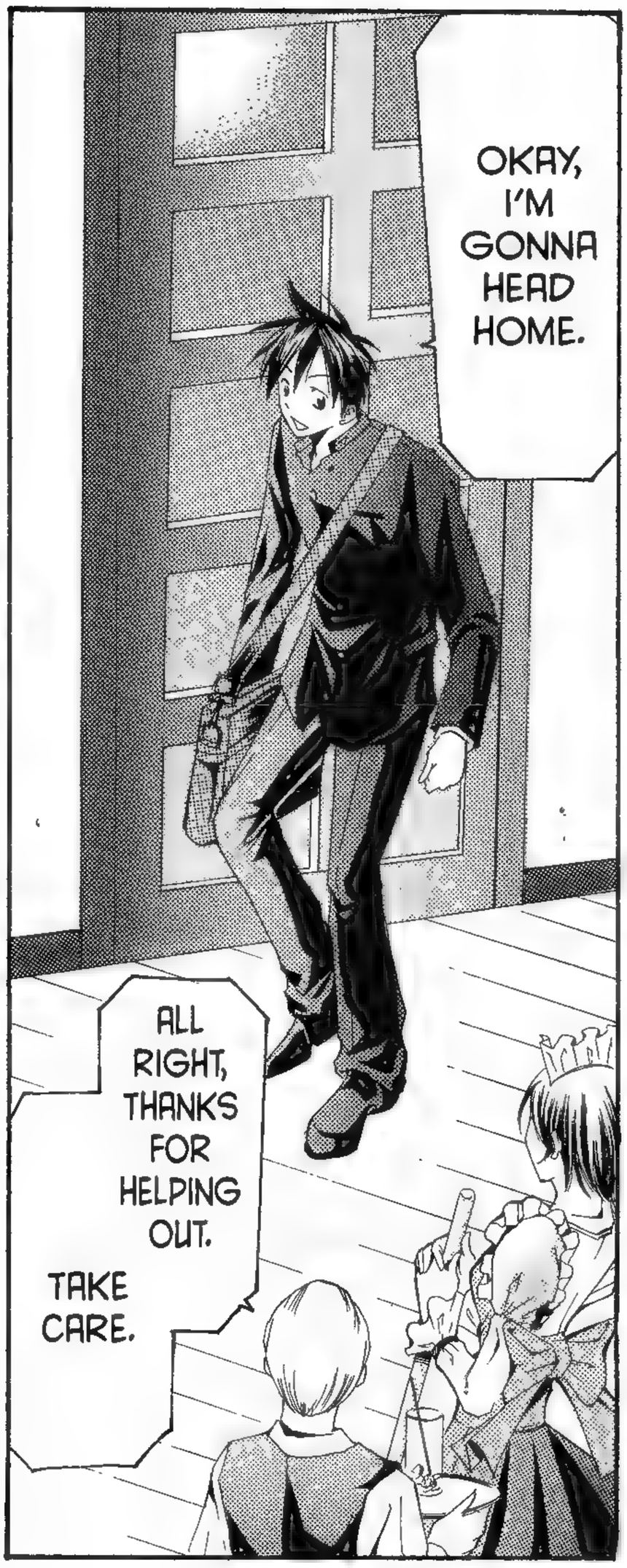
DON'T ASK ME...

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE GETTING ALONG PRETTY WELL. WHAT DO YOU THINK?



Café & Restaurant
Amami

BYE.
SEE YOU LATER.


OKAY, I'M GONNA HEAD HOME.
ALL RIGHT, THANKS FOR HELPING OUT.
TAKE CARE.

YEAH! THANKS, YUI-CHAN!
SEE YOU NEXT WEEK!!
CLICK
カシャ

YEAH, ALL THAT TRAINING MUST'VE REALLY BUILT UP HIS STAMINA.

EVEN AFTER ALL THAT HARD WORK, HE'S STILL FULL OF ENERGY.

SLAM

カチャ CLICK

Fruit

MAYBE YOU SHOULD JOIN ONE OF THE SCHOOL TEAMS, TOO.

I CAN HANDLE THE CAFÉ BY MYSELF ON WEEK-DAYS.

UM, I'VE GOT SOME STUFF TO DO RIGHT NOW, SO...

TAPPA

TAPPA

AH...

YAMATO-KUN...

...FORGOT HIS BAG.

IT'S GETTING LATE. GO WASH UP AND GET TO BED.

OKAY!

WHAT? AH... NOTH-ING...

FWUP

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THERE, YUI?

IS THIS HIS T-SHIRT...

MAYBE I'LL WASH IT AND BRING IT TO HIM TOMOR-ROW...

...JUST TO SHOW HOW MUCH I APPRECI-ATE ALL HIS HARD WORK.

SO... THIS IS WHAT HE WEARS TO PRAC-TICE...

YEAH!

HE RUNS AROUND ALL DAY AND HE NEVER GETS TIRED! ISN'T THAT AMAZING?

HEY, LET'S HANG OUT LATER?

CHATTER

NO, I CAN'T. I HAVE A DATE WITH MY BOY-FRIEND.

CHATTER

OH MY GOD! NO WAY...

YAMATO-KUN THIS... YAMATO-KUN THAT...

THERE SHE GOES AGAIN. ALL SHE EVER TALKS ABOUT IS YAMATO-KUN...

WHAT?

IF YOU LIKE HIM SO MUCH, WHY DON'T YOU JUST TELL HIM ALREADY. MAYBE HE'LL GO OUT WITH YOU.

WHO WANTS TO LISTEN TO THAT CRAP?

SHUT UP, YOU GUYS. WOULD YOU JUST LISTEN?

YAMATO-KUN ALREADY HAS A GIRLFRIEND!

YEAH, RIGHT.

YOU LEFT OUT THE MOST IMPORTANT PART.

HUH? DIDN'T I MENTION THAT?

WHAT? HE'S GOT A GIRLFRIEND?

I DON'T GET HER AT ALL...

YEAH... I GIVE UP...

W-WAIT A SEC, YUI!

SORRY GUYS, I HAVE TO GO BRING HIM HIS LAUNDRY!

HE'LL BE SO SURPRISED TO SEE ME HERE.

CLOP

CLOP

I WONDER WHAT HE'LL SAY...?

AS LONG AS I'M HERE, I MIGHT AS WELL WAIT FOR HIM TO GET OUT OF PRACTICE. THEN WE CAN WALK HOME TOGETHER.

I WANT TO HEAR MORE ABOUT THE TRACK TEAM ANY-WAY, SO...

HEY, GET THE HUR-DLES.

WOO

OKAY.

WOO

THREE MORE LAPS.

CLOP

I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'RE STILL GOING.

I HAD NO IDEA THEY PRACTICED SO LATE.

AFTER THIS...

AND HOW THE HECK CAN HE COME INTO WORK...

ALL RIGHT, EVERYBODY! THAT'S IT FOR TODAY! MAKE SURE YOU ALL DO A COOLDOWN BEFORE YOU LEAVE, ALL RIGHT?

OKAY!!

YAMATO-KUN!

YOUR TIME IS GET-TING A LOT BETTER, AKITSUKI.

YOU'LL BE PRETTY FAST BY THE TIME THE I.H. MEET COMES AROUND ⋮

KALANK

AHHHH...!! I CAN'T EVEN MOVE.

KALANK

Y-YUI-CHAN!

W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

YOU GUYS SURE DO PRACTICE LATE.

GRIN

HI, I'M YUI AMAMI. NICE TO MEET YOU!

YEAH. WE WORK TO-GETHER...

YOU KNOW HER?

YOU MUST BE EX-HAUSTED.

I-I DON'T KNOW.

IS IT HIS LOOKS ?

SENPAI... WHAT DOES HE HAVE THAT I DON'T? OTHER THAN SPEED...

OH...YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT.

I BROUGHT YOU YOUR T-SHIRT. YOU FORGOT IT THE OTHER DAY.

YOU WASHED IT?

HUH?

SQUEEZE

Y-YEAH. THANKS! YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT.

HA HA. ARE YOU SUR-PRISED?

WHAT?

HEY, NOW THAT YOU'RE DONE WITH PRACTICE, LET'S WALK HOME TO-GETHER.

I PROMISED I'D GO PICK UP ASAHINA AFTER THIS.

SORRY!

AH...

UH... WELL...

AH...DO YOU WANNA TAG ALONG FOR PART OF THE WAY?

WE'RE GOING IN THE SAME DIREC-TION ANYWAY.

SEE YOU LATER!

AH... WAIT, YUI-CHAN!

WAIT, I TOTALLY FORGOT. I HAVE SOME SHOPPING TO DO.

MAYBE SOME OTHER TIME.

...?

CIGARETTES

WHAT AM I DOING?

WHAT DID I EXPECT?

STEP

I'M SO STUPID!

FWAHHH

I KNEW FROM THE START THAT...

YAMATO-KUN...

...HAD A GIRLFRIEND.

ピピピピピピ

ASAHIYU BATHS

BEEP

BEEP

BEEP

#105 MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

SUZUKA

AKITSUKI!!

WOO

WOO

HEY, AKITSUKI!!

THE I.H. IS COMING UP. I REALLY NEED HIM HERE.

UH...

WHAT THE HELL IS WITH HIM? THIS IS THE THIRD TIME THIS MONTH.

I-I THINK HIS PART-TIME JOB IS WEARING HIM OUT.

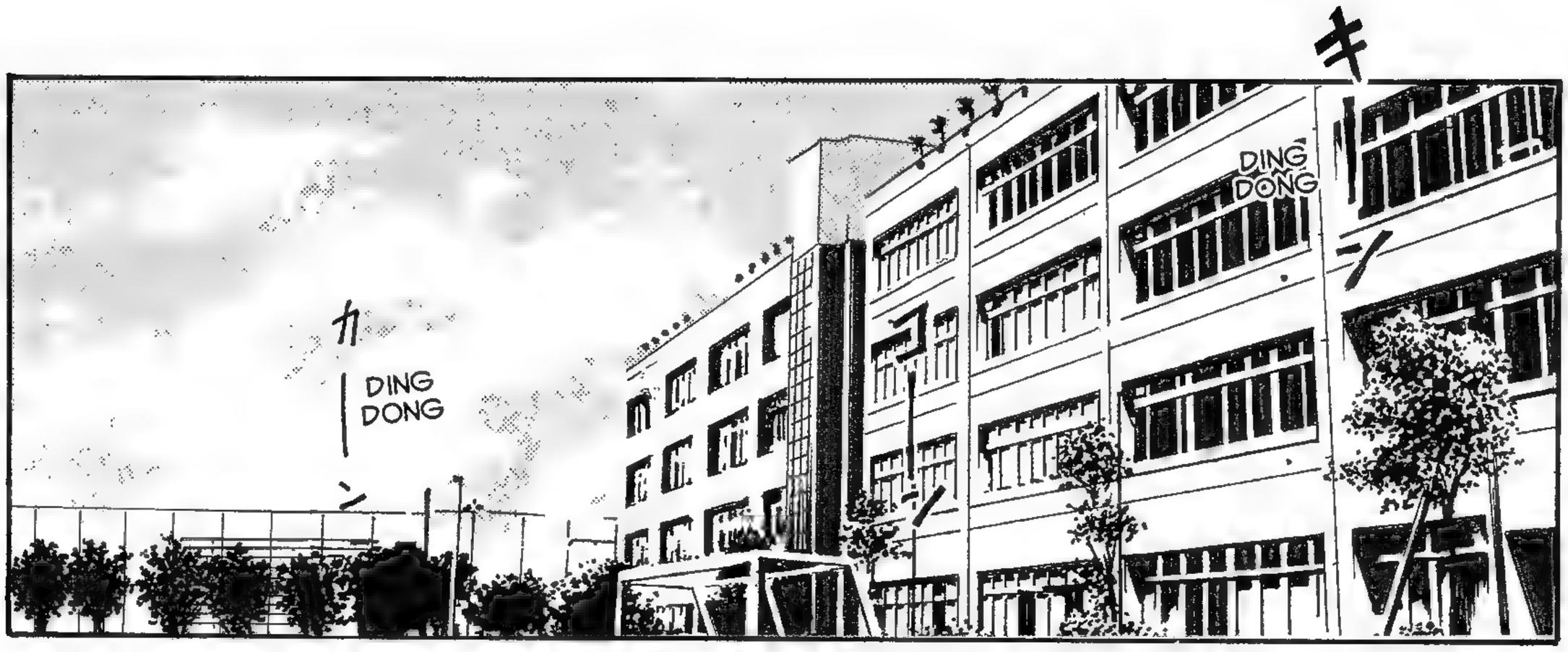
THAT'S NO EXCUSE.

...

HE'S BEEN SLACK-ING OFF EVER SINCE KINUGASA-SENPAI LEFT.

HE JUST TEXTED ME SAY-ING THAT HE OVER-SLEPT...

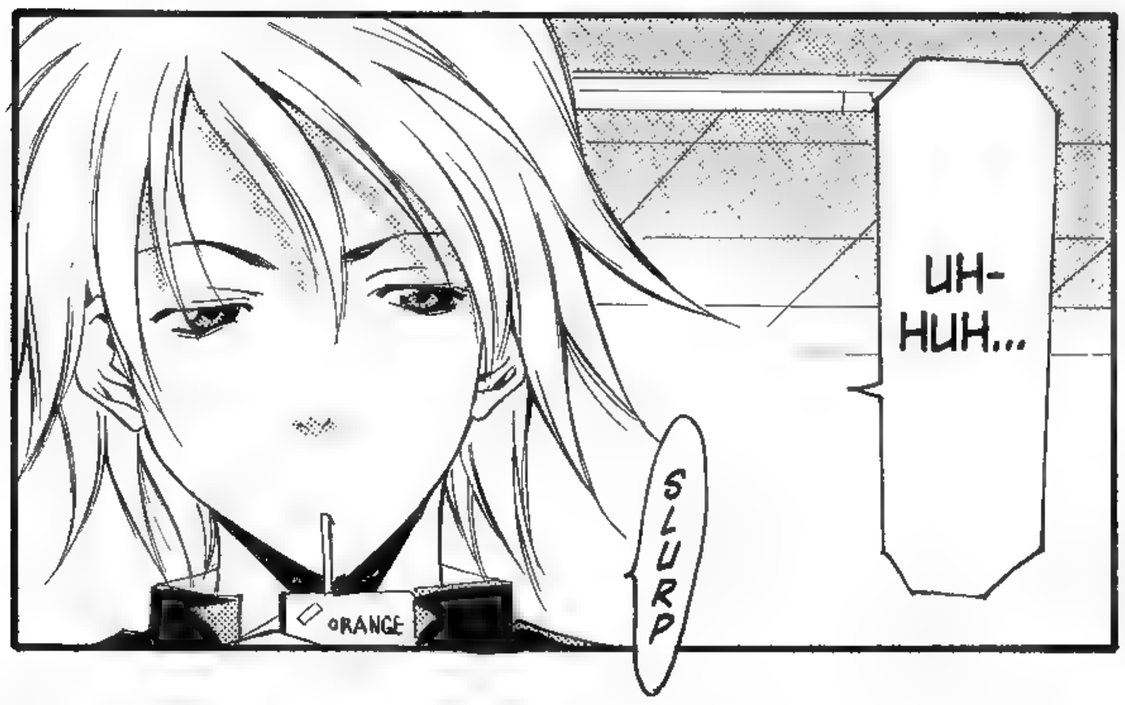
OVER-SLEPT?


DING DONG
DING DONG

YAAAWN

YEAH... AND I GOT IN TROUBLE AGAIN FOR OVERSLEEP-ING AND MISSING PRACTICE.
JOB'S KEEPIN' YOU BUSY, HUH?

YOU LOOK PRETTY TIRED. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YEAH... I GUESS...
CLANK


UH-HUH...
SLURP
ORANGE

WELL...WE TALK A LITTLE DURING LUNCHTIME AND ON THE WAY BACK HOME FROM SCHOOL...

I BET YOU HAVEN'T BEEN MAKING TIME FOR SUZUKA-CHAN LATELY, HAVE YOU?

I KNOW YOU ONLY GOT THIS JOB FOR SUZUKA-CHAN, BUT...

AS IF THAT'S ENOUGH...

THE ONLY REASON I'M EVEN IN THIS SITUATION IS THAT YOU TOLD ME I NEEDED TO BUY A COMPUTER.

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE SOME FUCKING RESPONSIBILITY?

WHATEVER.

ASAHINA FINALLY HAS THE DAY OFF FOR ONCE!

LOOK, WE'RE GOING ON A DATE TOMORROW, ALL RIGHT?

CLANK

HA-

AH... I'M SO SLEEPY...

I SHOULD'VE JUST MADE PLANS TO SEE HER IN THE AFTER-NOON.

ASAHIYU BATHS

THE FOL-LOWING DAY

IT'S OUR ONE DAY OFF TOGETHER... I'M NOT SLEEPY! I JUST *THINK* I'M SLEEPY. YEAH... IT'S ALL IN MY HEAD.

NO...

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.

?

YAMATO-KUN?

SHOCK

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU LOOK REALLY SLEEPY.

SO WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME TODAY?

WELL...I THOUGHT WE COULD GO SEE THAT MOVIE YOU MENTIONED THE OTHER DAY...

...THE SEQUEL TO THAT SHIP-WRECK MOVIE.

ARE YOU SURE?

N-NO, NOT AT ALL.

I'M FINE!!

REALLY?

I'VE BEEN WANTING TO SEE THAT!

I'M SO EXCITED!!

AH... YEAH...

I GUESS THE MOVIE THING WAS A GOOD PLAN...SHE LOOKS REALLY HAPPY.

C'MON. LET'S GO!

H-HEY, QUIT YANK-ING ON ME.

HUH?

IT'S BEEN A WHILE...

...SINCE WE WENT ON A DATE.

WE WENT TO YOKOHAMA LAST TIME, REMEMBER?

YEAH.

OH YEAH. I GUESS WE'VE BOTH JUST BEEN SO BUSY LATELY.

AH...I WORKED MORE THAN I EXPECTED LAST MONTH, SO I GOT A NICE, BIG PAYCHECK.

WORK'S BEEN GOING PRETTY SMOOTHLY SO FAR.

COOL.

AND IF ALL GOES WELL, I'LL BE ABLE TO BUY MY OWN COMPUTER BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR THE STATES.

JUST DON'T GET HURT ON THE JOB, OKAY.

YOU'RE SUCH A KLUTZ.

YEAH, YEAH...

ドガァァ

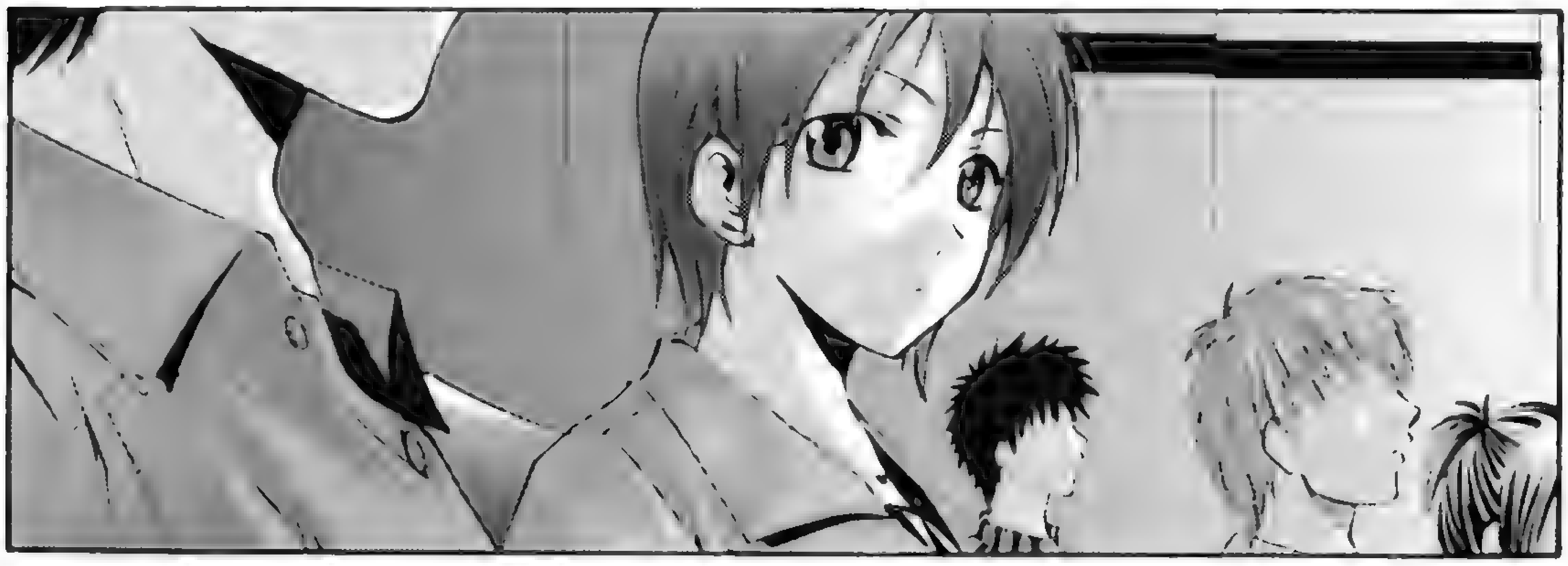
KABOOM

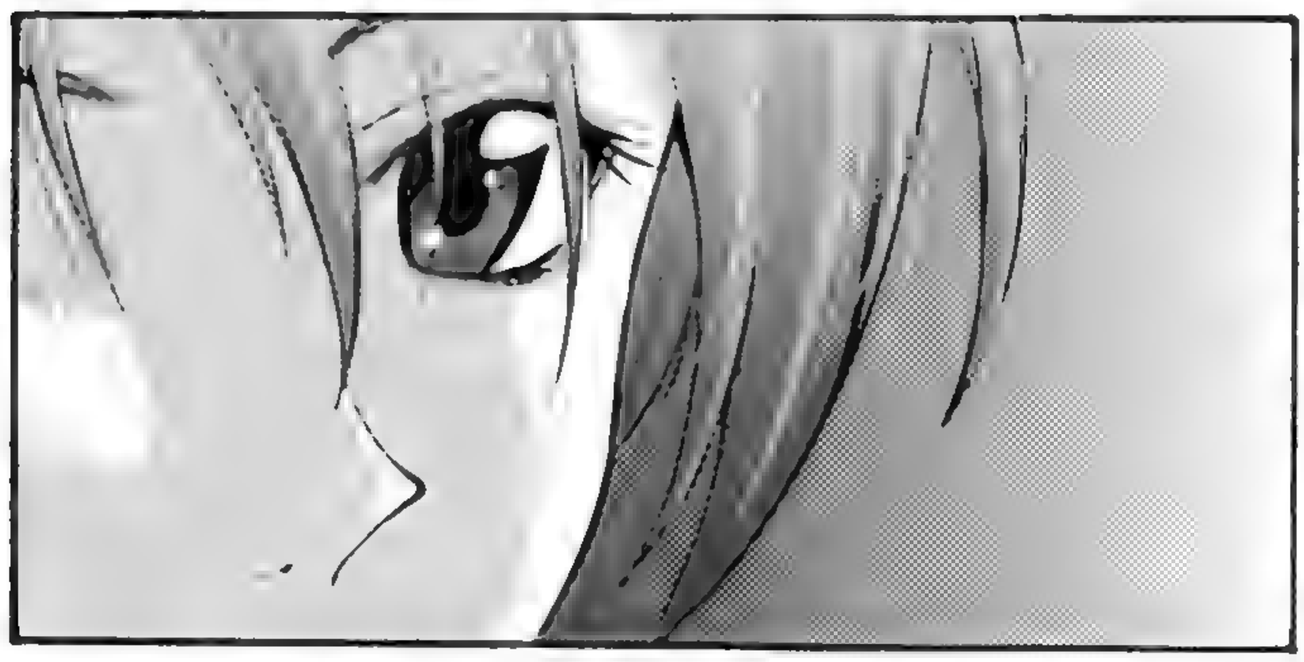
……!!

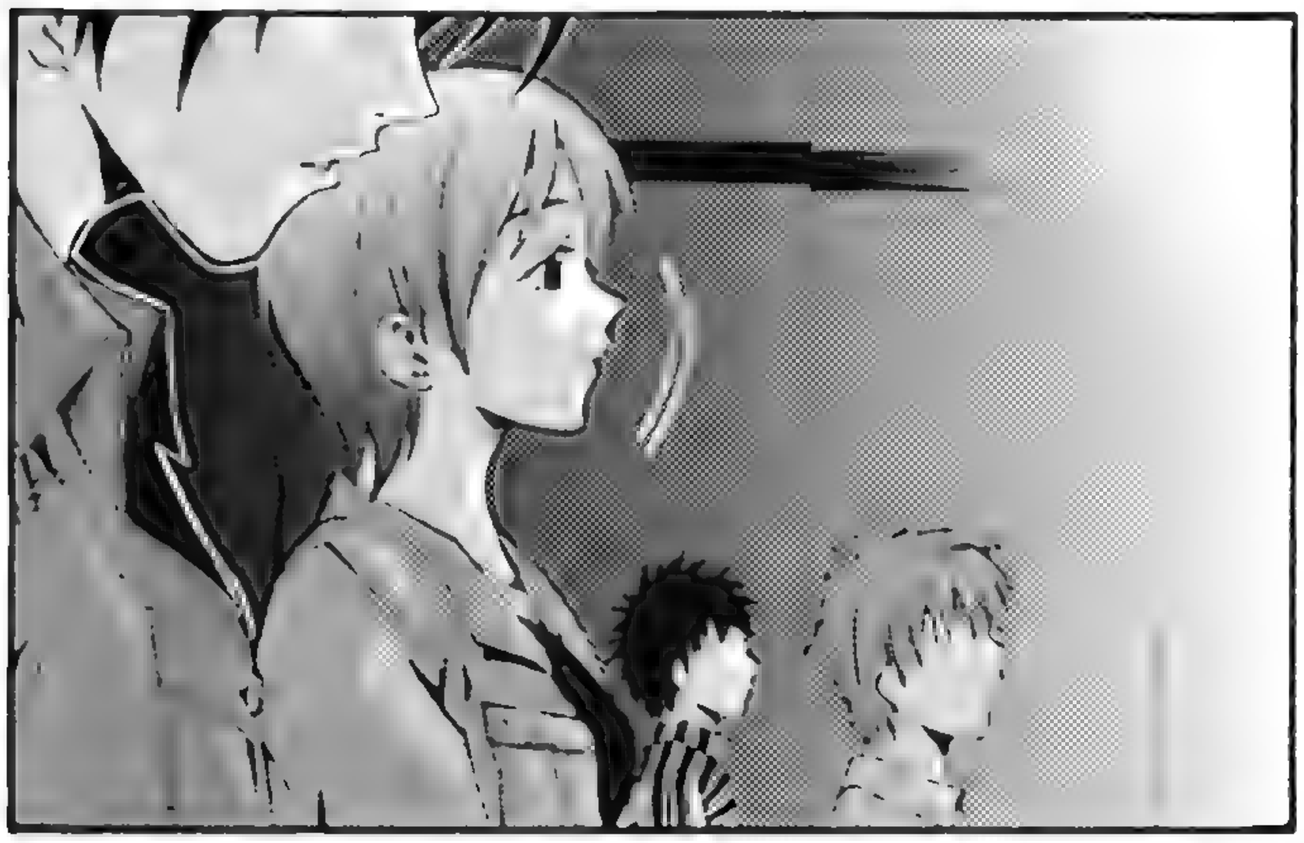
ドォォォン

CRASH

……!!







SEQUELS ARE NEVER ANY GOOD.

I LIKED THE FIRST ONE BETTER.

RESTAURANT CASA

W-WELL... AS LONG AS YOU HAD FUN, IT WAS WORTH IT FOR ME.

IF YOU WERE THAT TIRED, WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY SOME-THING.

HOW WOULD YOU KNOW? YOU SLEPT THROUGH MOST OF IT.

OH... HE DID?

CLINK

YOU KNOW... SASAOKA-SAN ASKED ME HOW YOU WERE DOING.

AH... WELL... HEH...

YOU'VE GOTTA WORK EXTRA HARD SO YOU CAN GET A PAIR OF CUSTOM SHOES MADE FOR YOU.

YEAH!

WHAT?

YOU KNOW, I WAS THINKING ABOUT WORK-ING A FEW MORE HOURS STARTING NEXT WEEK.

NAH, FORGET IT. SASAOKA-SAN PROBABLY WON'T EVEN REMEMBER. BESIDES, I'D FEEL BAD ASKING.

H-HE WON'T MIND...

WELL...

THAT WAY I'LL BE ABLE TO SAVE UP MONEY A LOT FASTER...

ALL RIGHT...

LISTEN...

WHAT'S WRONG?

.....

UM...

NEVER MIND...

O-OKAY...

.....!

.....!!

S-SURE.

AH... WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO AFTER THIS?

SHOULD WE GO SHOP-PING?

NO... I DON'T REALLY NEED ANY-THING RIGHT NOW ANYWAY, SO...

YOU'RE DONE AL-READY? DO YOU WANT TO GO TO ANOTHER SHOP? I DON'T MIND.

WHY'S SHE SO QUIET ALL OF A SUDDEN?

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH HER?

UH...

ARE YOU TIRED OR SOME-THING?

I'VE GOTTA MAKE SOME CONVERSA-TION...

H-HEY!!

カツ
ツ
ツ
ツ
CLOP

NO, I'M FINE.

カツ
ツ
ツ
ツ
CLOP

OH... OKAY...

. . . . . .

OH YEAH...?

REMEMBER THE OKONOMIYAKI THAT I MADE FOR YOU THE OTHER DAY? WELL, LOTS OF PEOPLE LIKED IT...

A-AND SO... UH...

...SO WE'VE STARTED SERVING IT TO THE CUSTOMERS SOMETIMES!!

I WAS THINKING MAYBE I'D TRY AND LEARN TO COOK FOR REAL.

YOU KNOW, BUY A COOKBOOK AND STUFF...

.....

IF I LEARN TO COOK, THEN I CAN MAKE MORE STUFF FOR YOU.

AND YOU CAN COME VISIT ME AT WORK AGAIN WHEN YOU HAVE TIME...

WHAT?

SORRY...

I GUESS I *AM* PRETTY TIRED.

I-I'M GONNA HEAD HOME.

SORRY...

OH...

UH... OKAY...

BYE.

WELL, SEE YA.

SUZUKA

#106 UNSATISFIED

HEY! GOOD MORN-ING!!

AH...!

カン カン

CLOP

CLOP

YAMATO-KUN.

HAVE YOU BEEN WAITING FOR ME?

AH... YEAH. ARE YOU FEELING BETTER?

YOU SEEMED REALLY TIRED YESTER-DAY...

YOU SEEM LIKE YOU'VE BEEN PRETTY TIRED LATELY, TOO, YAMATO-KUN. ARE YOU GOING TO BE OKAY TO-MORROW?

TOMOR-ROW?

I'M FINE...

OH, OKAY... GOOD.

OH YEAH... THAT IS TO-MORROW, HUH...

DON'T YOU REMEMBER? WE HAVE A TRACK TOURNA-MENT TO-MORROW...

...TO DECIDE WHO'S GONNA GO TO THE I.H. PRE-LIMS...

WELL, MAYBE YOU CAN BEAT ARIMA'S RECORD THIS YEAR.

I'LL BE FINE! I'VE BEEN TRAINING REALLY HARD. IT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM.

I'VE BEEN WATCHING HIM AT PRACTICE AND HE'S EVEN FASTER NOW.

HMMM...

REALLY?

WHAT?

NO WONDER HE'S GOING ABROAD.

I WAS KIND OF RELIEVED TO FIND OUT THAT HE WON'T BE AT THIS YEAR'S I.H. MEET.

. . . . . .

I WATCHED HIM RUN THE OTHER DAY, TOO.

HE REALLY IS SOME-THING...

HUH?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WE'RE GONNA BE LATE.

YEAH...

STEP

STEP

STEP

HAHH

HAHH

HAHH

FLUMP

KEEP IT UP!

YOU'RE STAYING LATE TODAY, TOO?

...!

STEP

...

MIKI...

HEY!

TRAINING INTO THE WEE HOURS AGAIN...?

DID AKITSUKI GO HOME ALREADY?

YEAH... HE HAD TO GO TO WORK...

YEAH... EVEN THOUGH...

...THE TOURNA-MENT'S TOMOR-ROW...

WOW... HE'S ACTUALLY WORKING PRETTY HARD.

OH, HE'LL BE FINE!

I'M SURE HE'LL MAKE IT TO THE PRELIMS WITH A RECORD-BREAKING TIME, JUST LIKE HE ALWAYS DOES...

I DON'T KNOW...

OH, HE WILL! THAT'S JUST THE WAY HE IS.

THE FOL-
LOWING
DAY...

ON
YOUR
MARK...

GET
SET...!!

NITSHI

SASAKI,
AKITSUKI,
YOU'RE UP
NEXT!!

OKAY!

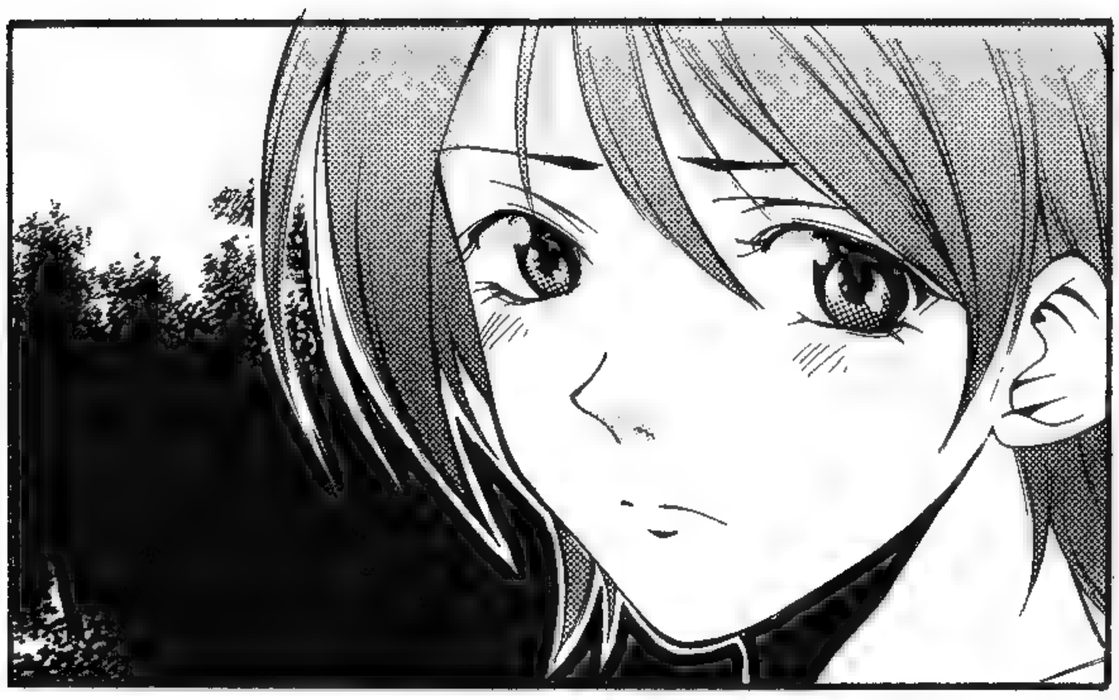
OKAY!

.....

WHOOSH

BANG

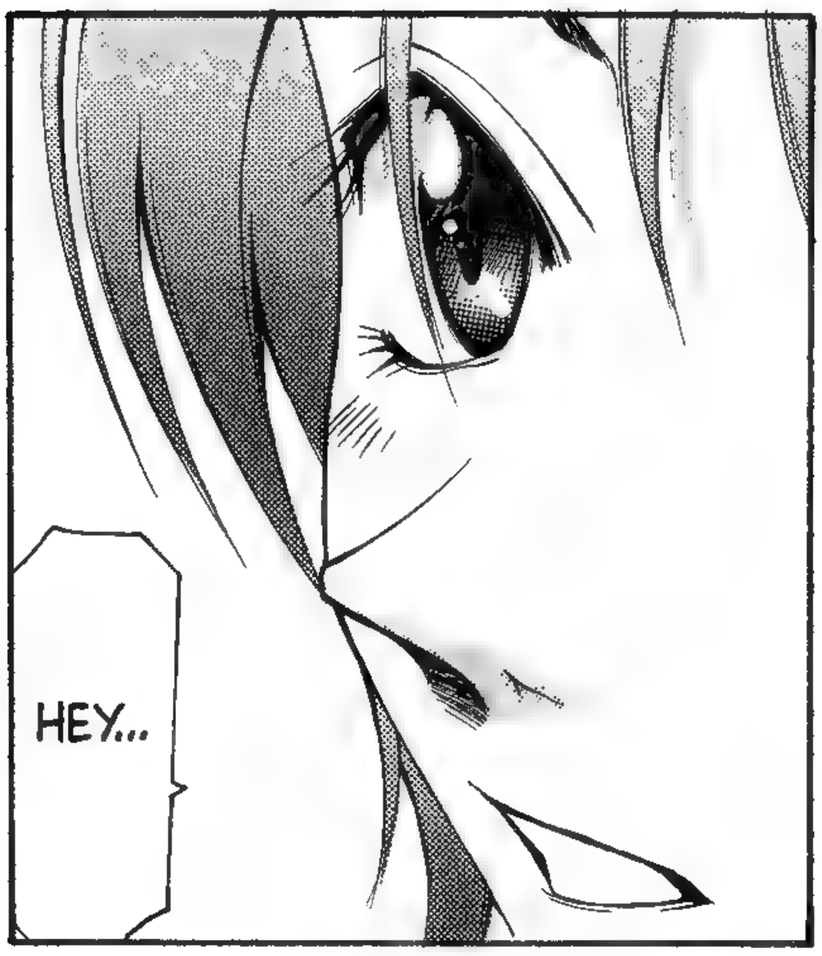
SPLASH
SPLASH
TSSSS
PHEW...
HUH?
CLOMP
ASAHINA...

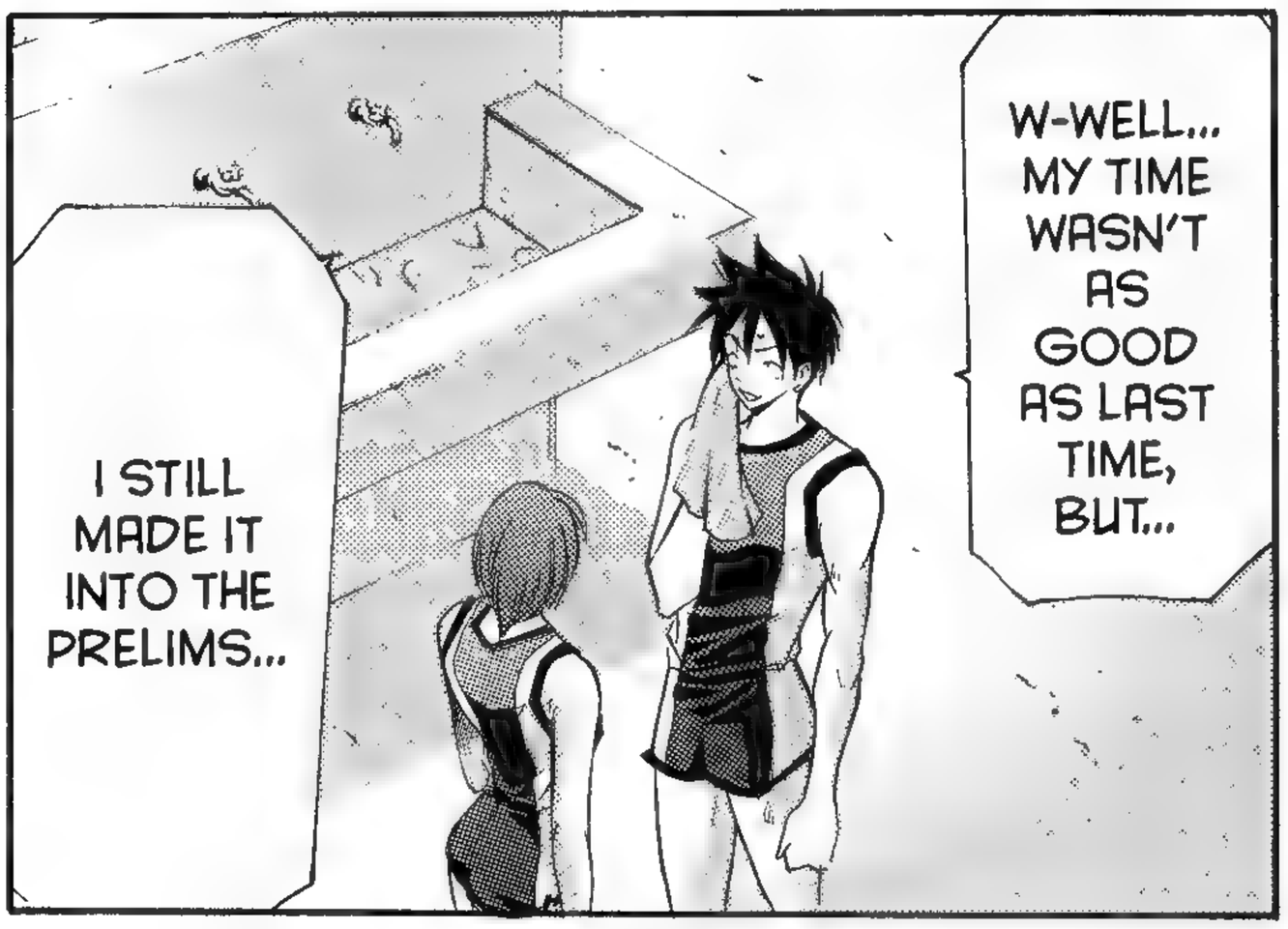


HERE'S YOUR TOWEL...
AH... THANKS.

UM...
DID YOU SEE MY RUN?

YEAH...
OH... OKAY...


HEY...


W-WELL... MY TIME WASN'T AS GOOD AS LAST TIME, BUT...
I STILL MADE IT INTO THE PRELIMS...

WHAT?

WHY DON'T YOU CUT BACK ON YOUR HOURS AT THE CAFÉ A LITTLE?

I'M FINE!

WE WERE A LITTLE BUSY YESTERDAY, SO I WAS KINDA TIRED TODAY, THAT'S ALL.

I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU HAVE TO HAVE ALL THE MONEY BY SEPTEMBER, AND...

I CAN ALWAYS CALL YOU...AT LEAST FOR A WHILE.

OF COURSE NOT...

I MEAN...

BUT YOU SAID YOURSELF THAT ARIMA IS GETTING A LOT FASTER!

DON'T YOU CARE? ARE YOU JUST GONNA GIVE UP AND LET HIM WIN...

YAMATO-KUN...

DO YOU STILL...

...WANT TO BEAT ARIMA?

L-
LOOK...

WELL,
DO
YOU?

.....!

...BUT I'M
DOING THE
BEST I CAN!!

I MAY
NOT BE
TRAINING
AS MUCH
AS I WAS
BEFORE...

DOESN'T
IT PISS
YOU OFF?
HE MADE A
COMPLETE
FOOL OUT
OF YOU!

HAVE YOU
FORGOT-
TEN
ALREADY?

NO...
BUT...

SHUT
UP!

THAT'S
NOT WHAT
I ASKED
YOU!!

WHAT?

WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?

I'M NOT LIKE ARIMA, YOU KNOW!!

BESIDES, HE'S BEEN DOING TRACK MUCH LONGER THAN I HAVE.

I CAN'T JUST TRAIN ALL DAY LIKE HE DOES...

.....

HE GOT STARTED WHEN HE WAS WAY YOUNGER.

I COULD NEVER CATCH UP WITH HIM.

I HAVE TO WORK, TOO.

THAT'S ENOUGH!! JUST SHUT UP!

I HATE WHEN YOU'RE LIKE THIS, YAMATO-KUN!!

.....!?

.....

WHAT?

WHAT THE FUCK? WHAT THE HELL IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

WHY THE FUCK DO YOU THINK I GOT THAT JOB IN THE FIRST PLACE?

AH...

.....

AH...!!

FWOOSH

WAIT!! I WAS JUST...

ASAHINA!!

ASAHINA...

HEY!!

CONTINUED IN VOLUME 13

SPECIAL BONUS MANGA "I LOVE MYSELF" WHAT DOES KOUJI SEO LOOK LIKE?

I NORMALLY DRAW SORT OF GENERIC SELF-PORTRAITS OF MYSELF LIKE THIS IN ORDER TO CONCEAL MY TRUE IDENTITY. I OFTEN GET FAN LETTERS AND E-MAILS ASKING "WHAT DO YOU LOOK LIKE, SEO-SENSEI?" "CAN WE SEE YOUR FACE SOMEWHERE?" SO I'VE DECIDED TO FINALLY REVEAL MY TRUE IDENTITY! HOW, YOU ASK? WELL, I HAD SOME FRIENDS DRAW THEIR OWN VERSIONS OF ME!

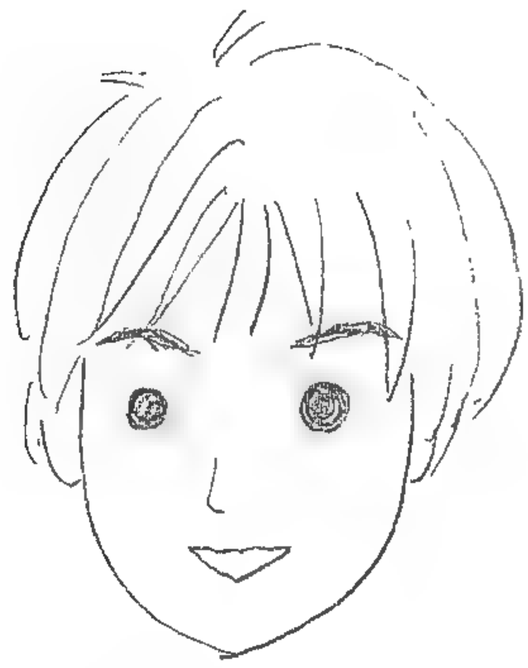
MENU

KOUJI SEO DRAWN BY THE COACH ☆ GIRLS.
KOUJI SEO DRAWN BY STAGE AND VOICE-OVER ACTORS.
KOUJI SEO DRAWN BY MY ASSISTANTS.
KOUJI SEO DRAWN BY MANGA ARTISTS.
KOUJI SEO DRAWN BY MY EDITORS.

* I ASKED THE MANGA ARTISTS, ASSISTANTS, AND EDITORS TO DRAW MY FACE FROM MEMORY.

KOUJI SEO DRAWN BY COACH ☆

DRAWN BY HATSUMI MIURA



DRAWN BY YUMIKO HOSONO

DRAWN BY MANA

DRAWN BY MICHIE KITAURA

~COMMENTARY BY KOUJI SEO~

THANKS FOR BEING SO NICE! I'M NOT GONNA SAY ANYTHING ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT THEY RESEMBLE ME, BUT I REALLY LIKE THE WAY YOU GUYS DREW MY FACIAL EXPRESSIONS. OH, AND THANKS FOR TRYING TO MAKE ME LOOK MUCH BETTER THAN I REALLY DO.

KOUJI SEO DRAWN BY ACTORS AND VOICE ACTORS.

DRAWN BY SEIKA HOSOKAWA

DRAWN BY TAKESHI MAEDA

DRAWN BY KOUICHI YOKOTA

DRAWN BY ASAKO YOSHIDA

DRAWN BY AKIKO MACHIDA

~COMMENTARY BY KOUJI SEO~

WOW, ACTORS ARE DEFINITELY GREAT OBSERVERS! THESE DRAWINGS ARE ALL QUITE UNIQUE, BUT I'VE GOTTA SAY THAT MAEDA-SAN'S LOOKS THE MOST LIKE THE REAL ME.

KOUJI SEO DRAWN BY MY ASSISTANTS

DRAWN BY KIKYO

DRAWN BY YOSHIMI USHIGUCHI

DRAWN BY MOGI

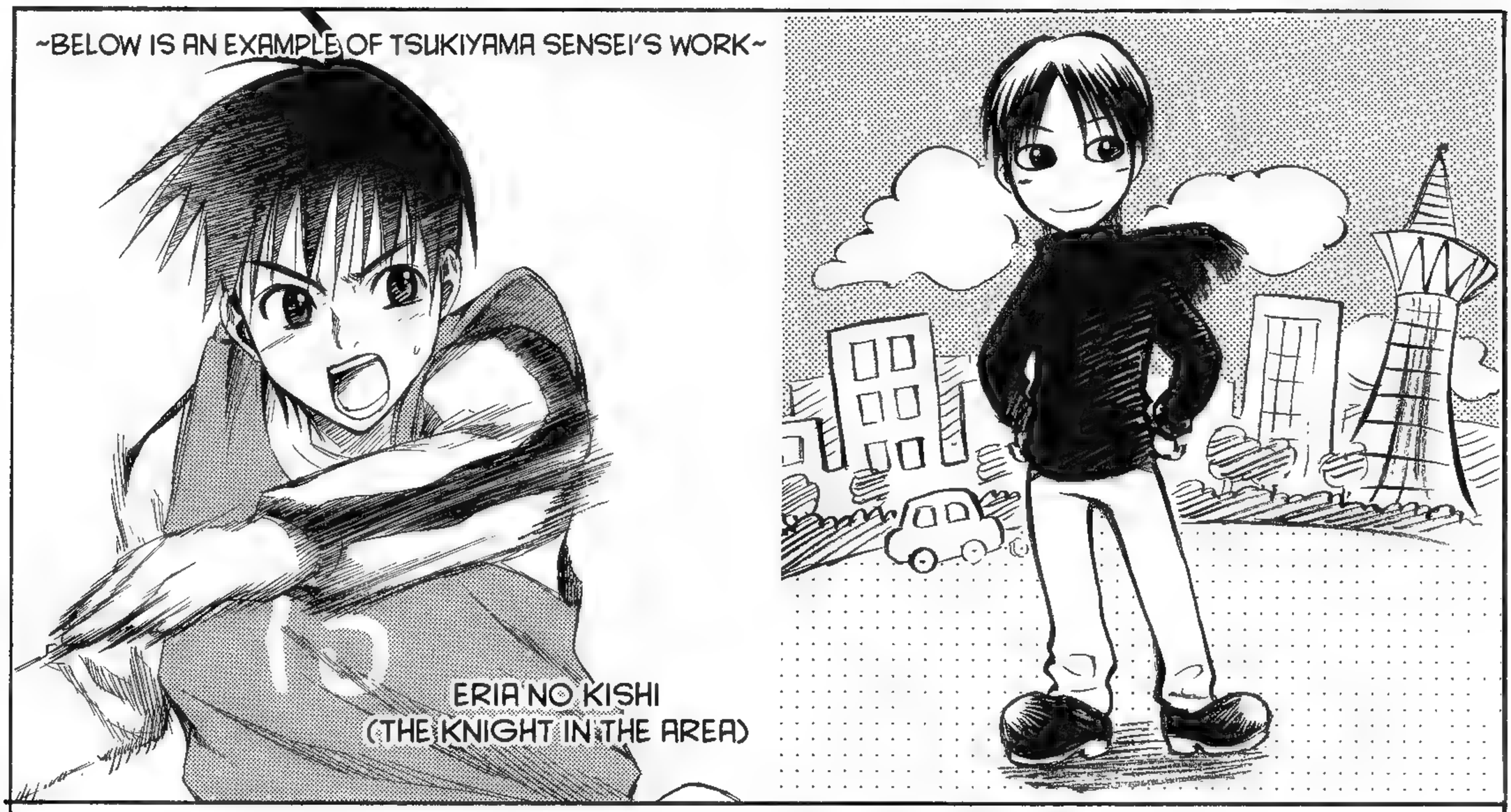
DRAWN BY MIYAKO TAKEUCHI

~COMMENTARY BY KOUJI SEO~

NO ONE WOULD EVER GUESS THAT THESE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE DRAWINGS OF THE SAME PERSON, BUT THEY ALL HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON...THOSE CRAZY LOOKING EYES. I MUST LOOK PRETTY CRAZY WHEN I'M WORKING...

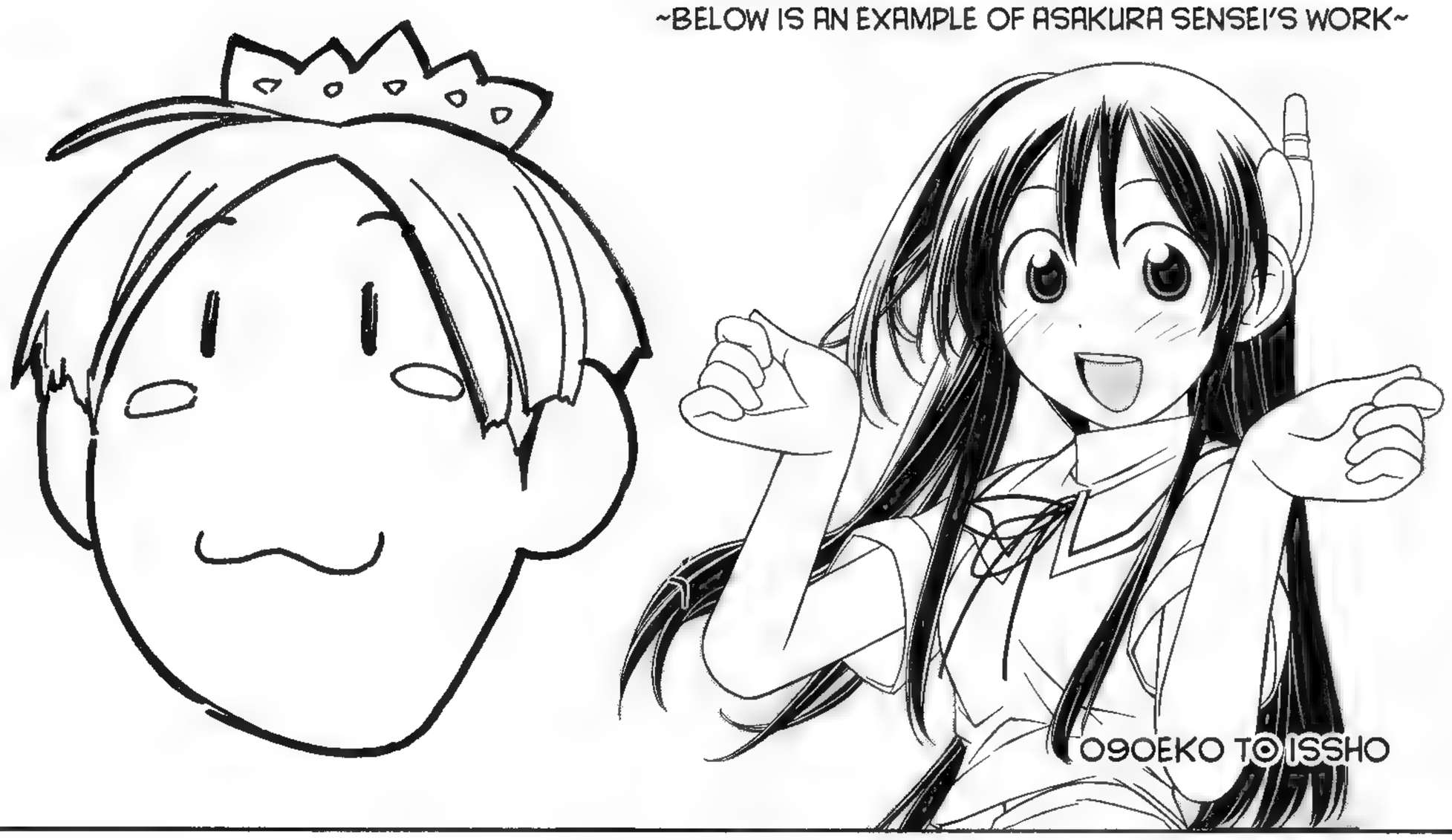
KOUJI SEO DRAWN BY MANGA ARTISTS

~BELOW IS AN EXAMPLE OF TSUKIYAMA SENSEI'S WORK~



DRAWN BY KAYA TSUKIYAMA SENSEI

~BELOW IS AN EXAMPLE OF ASAKURA SENSEI'S WORK~

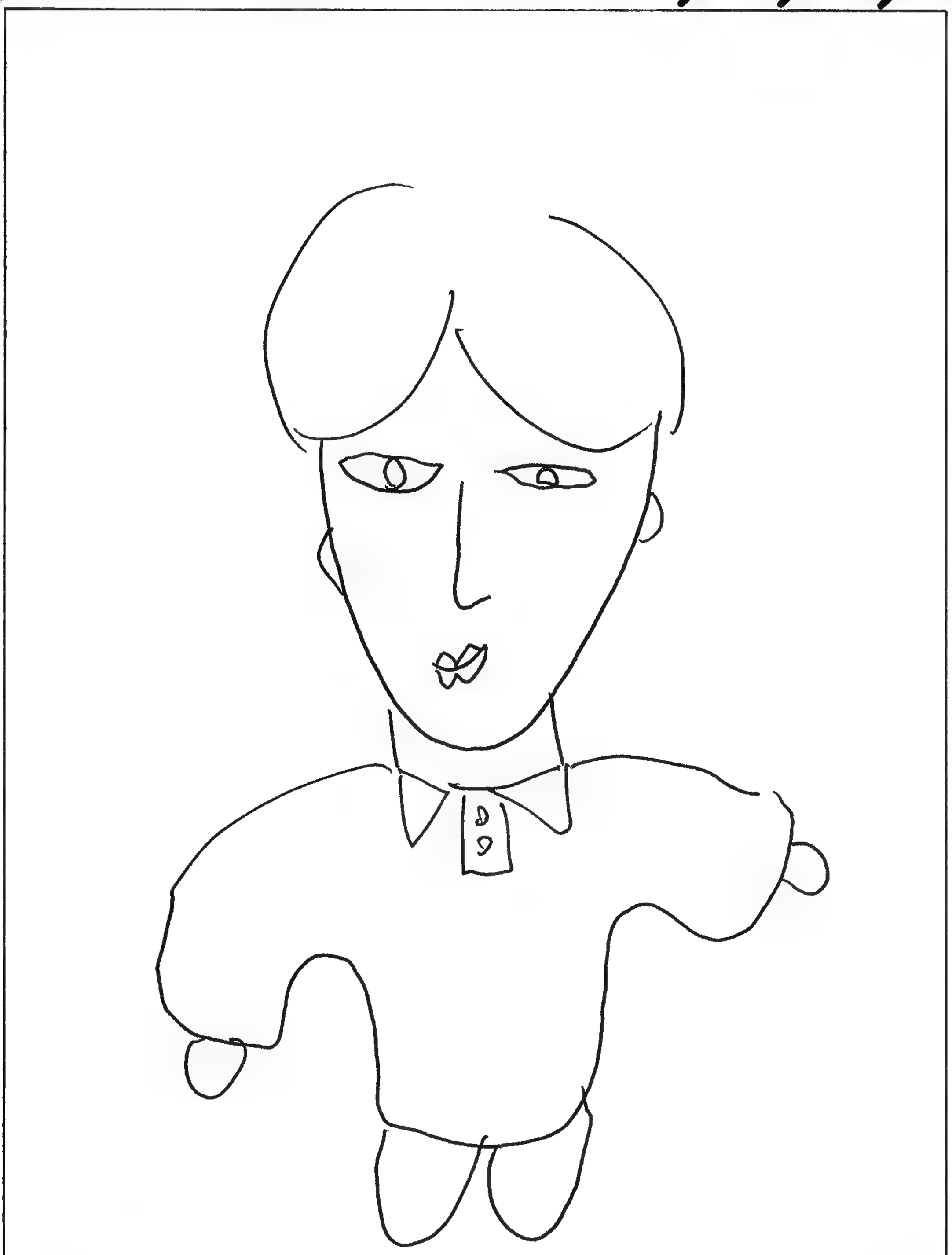


DRAWN BY MARU ASAKURA SENSEI

~COMMENTARY BY KOUJI SEO~

I REALLY HAVE TO THANK THESE TWO FOR BEING SO NICE. I KNOW TSUKIYAMA SENSEI PRETTY WELL BUT, I ONLY MET ASAKURA SENSEI ONCE ABOUT SEVEN YEARS AGO. ASKING YOU TO DRAW ME FROM MEMORY WAS A TALL TASK INDEED. HEH, SORRY.

KOUJI SEO DRAWN BY MY EDITORS



DRAWN BY M-TA, MASTER ARTIST

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS PROJECT!!

DRAWN BY THE S-KI, MASTER ARTIST

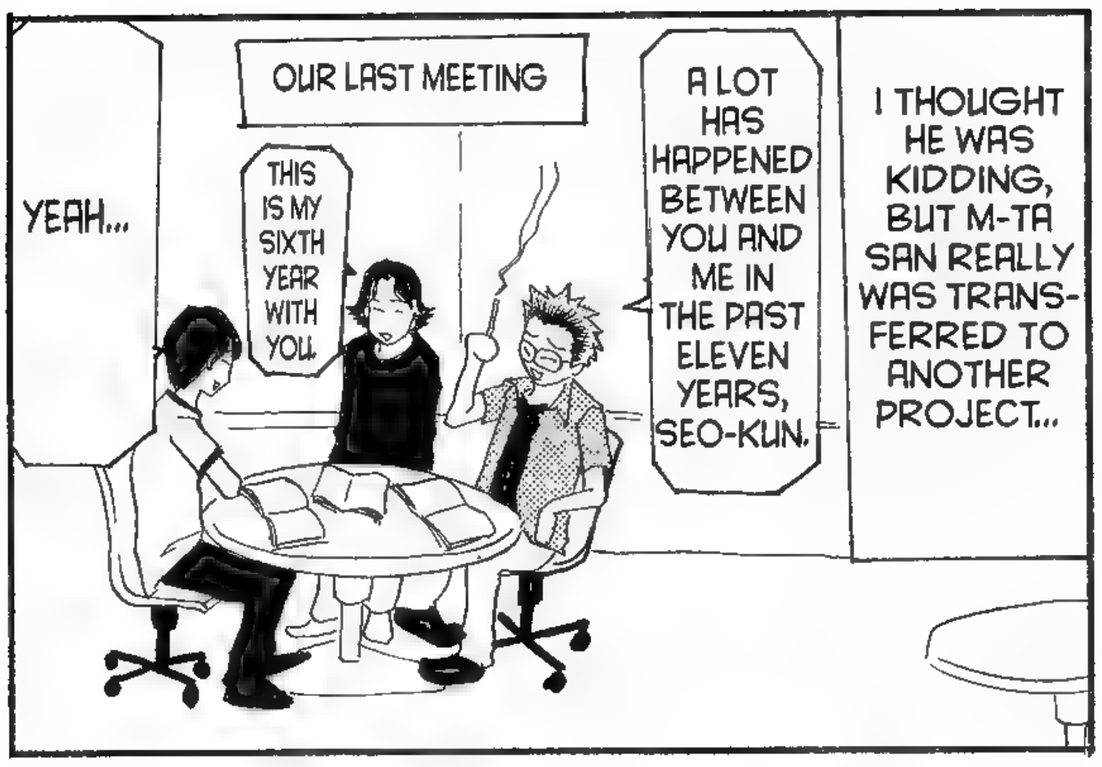
~COMMENTARY BY KOUJI SEO~

TA-DAH! TWO MUSEUM-WORTHY, MASTER ARTISTS!! NO OTHER ARTIST COULD EVEN COME CLOSE TO THESE TWO!! YOU CAN TELL THEY REALLY DIDN'T WANNA SPEND TIME ON DRAWING MY BODY. THEY JUST WENT THROUGH THE MOTIONS. WHY EVEN BOTHER, GUYS? GEEZ.

SUZUKA "FOUR-PANEL" THEATER

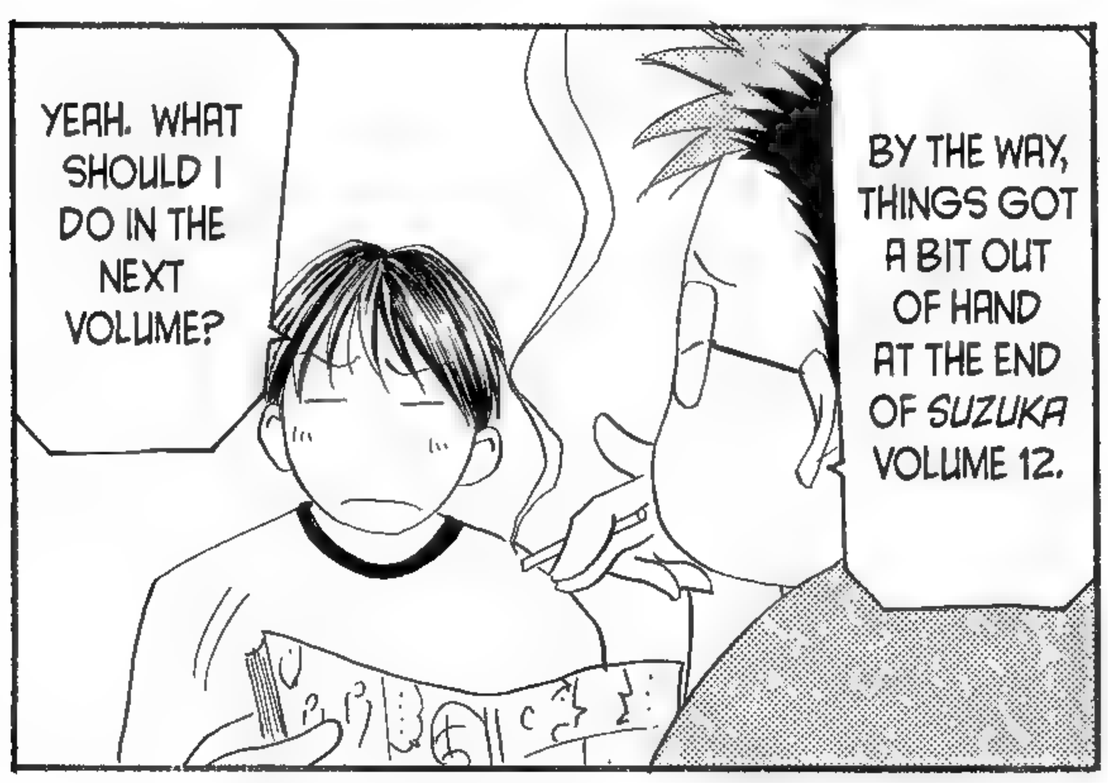
NO. 28 "PORTRAIT DRAWING—THE FINAL PROJECT?"

THANKS! SORRY TO MAKE YOU GO THROUGH ALL THE TROUBLE...
HIS HAIR HAS BEEN PRETTY STYLISH LATELY.
SEO-KUN, HERE'S MY DRAWING OF YOU FOR SUZUKA VOLUME 12.
WHAT? IT IS?
MY GOD... THIS IS HORRIBLE...
DO ANOTHER ONE AND TRY TO REALLY REMEMBER WHAT I LOOK LIKE THIS TIME.
WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR ELEVEN YEARS, AND THIS IS ALL YOU COULD COME UP WITH?
WHAT?
I REALLY DON'T HAVE TIME TO SPEND ON THIS RIGHT NOW...
カラーン
(POOF
SORRY, BUT I'M GETTING TRANS-FERRED TO ANOTHER PROJECT SOON.
I'M NOT GONNA BE YOUR EDITOR ANYMORE, AND...
SO THIS WAS OUR FINAL PROJECT TOGETHER...


YEAH...
OUR LAST MEETING
THIS IS MY SIXTH YEAR WITH YOU.
A LOT HAS HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU AND ME IN THE PAST ELEVEN YEARS, SEO-KUN.
I THOUGHT HE WAS KIDDING, BUT M-TA SAN REALLY WAS TRANS-FERRED TO ANOTHER PROJECT...

SUZUKA "FOUR-PANEL" THEATER

NO. 29 "THANKS FOR EVERYTHING"



Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Back to School, page 22

In Japan the school year starts in April.

DAMN IT! I MADE THIRTY CALLS AND I COULDN'T EVEN GET A SINGLE INTERVIEW!!
NOT ONLY AM I NOT GONNA MAKE ANY MONEY, I'M SPENDING TONS ON MAKING THESE STUPID CALLS.

Cha-ching, page 31

In Japan, even local phone calls cost money.

Mama-san, page 34

Japanese bars and hostess clubs are often run by older women called "mama."

Hiroshima dialect, page 36

Japan has many regional dialects. The Japanese spoken in the Tokyo area is generally considered standard Japanese. Most regions outside of Tokyo have their own unique dialects with slightly different vocabulary.

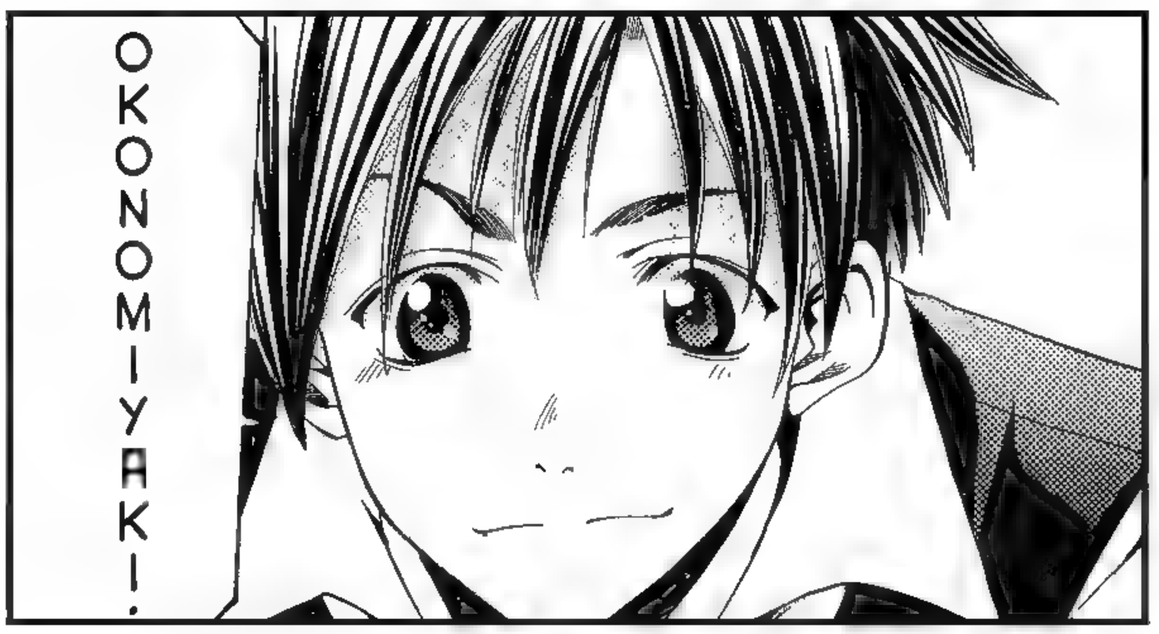
Deja Vu, pages 38–39

You may have noticed that although the art in these two pages is slightly different, the dialogue is exactly the same. Nope, this isn't a typo. In Japan most manga are published serially in weekly or monthly magazines. It's common for each installment to start with a little flashback of what happened in the previous episode. Page 38 was likely the end of one installment, and 39 the beginning of the next. Since we at Del Rey aim to bring our readers Japanese manga in its purest form, we opted to leave these pages unchanged.

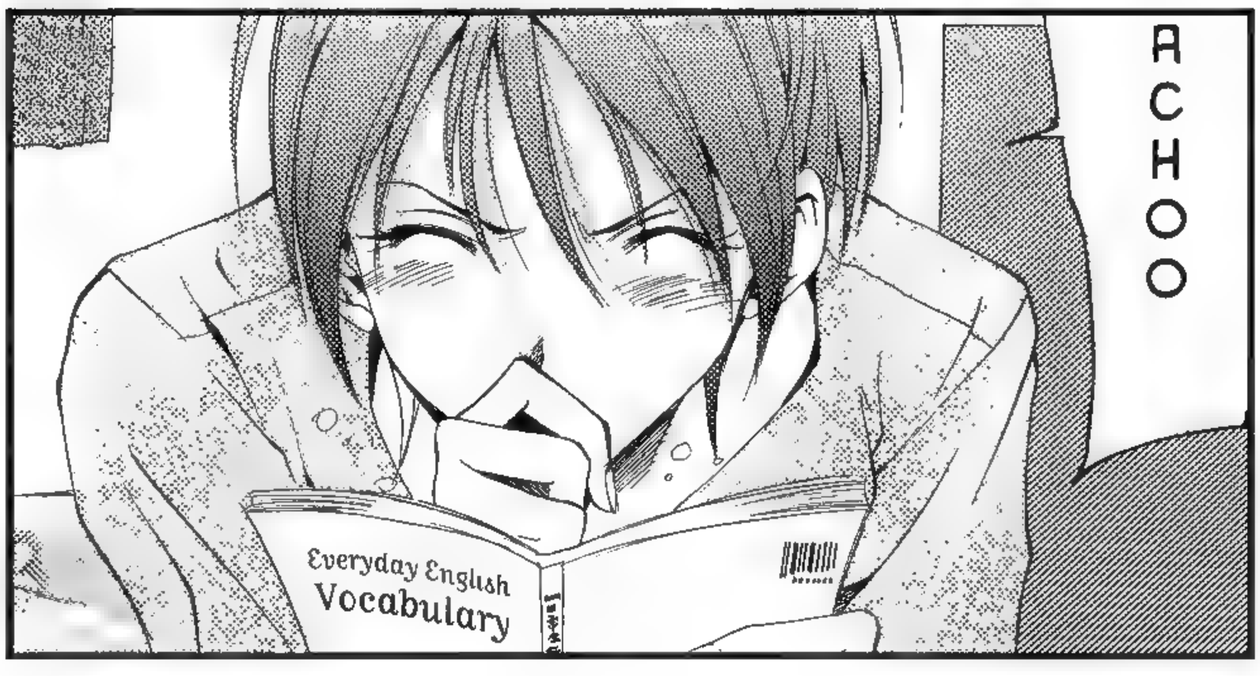
Konbu, page 81

Konbu is a type of seaweed used as a base for making broth.

Okonomiyaki, page 84



Okonomiyaki is often referred to as a Japanese pancake. It's a concoction made up of batter and a mixture of meat, vegetables, egg, and sometimes noodles. At most *okonomiyaki* restaurants your table will have a built-in grill, and you can cook your own *okonomiyaki* right at the table.



Achoo, page 92

In Japan, they say that when someone talks about you behind your back it makes you sneeze.

Preview of Volume 13

We're pleased to present you a preview from *Suzuka* volume 13. Please check our website (www.delreymanga.com) to see when this volume will be available in English. For now you'll have to make do with Japanese!

そっかなァ
なんかつき合ってからも
文句ばっか言われてた
気がするけど

……

カツン

カツン

愛想尽かされた
んだよ きっと

だからって……

明日にもやっぱり
涼風の実家行って
みよ

私も行くからさ！

だから
いいってば…

そんなことくらいで
別れたりする…？

留学前なのに
迷惑だろ？

ア…
アンタねェ!!

ア

ガッ
おわっ!!
ガタッ
……!
いっつ〜〜〜〜
もォ何やってんのよそ見なんかしてるからよ?
……確かに
ドジって所は否定できないわね・・
……
どうしたの・・大丈夫?もしかしてどこか打ったんじゃ・・

秋月……

なによ……やっぱり辛いんじゃない

うるせーな……ホントお節介だよなお前って

HIROYUKI TAMAKOSHI

JUST ONE OF THE GIRLS

A whole new Gacha Gacha story line begins! Akira Hatsushiba is just your typical, average high school kid . . . until a glitch in a Gacha Gacha video game changes his life forever. Now, every time Akira sneezes, his entire body undergoes a gender-bending switcheroo! That's right, Akira is always just an *achoo* away from getting in touch with his feminine side. But it's not all bad. Akira has had a crush on Yurika Sakuraba ever since he first laid eyes on her. He's always been too shy, but now that he can change into a girl, Akira finally has a chance to get close to Yurika. Being a girl certainly has its advantages!

Special extras in each volume! Read them all!

VISIT WWW.DELREYMANGA.COM TO:

- Read sample pages
- View release date calendars for upcoming volumes
- Sign up for Del Rey's free manga e-newsletter
- Find out the latest about new Del Rey Manga series

RATING M AGES 18+

DEL REY DEL REY MANGA デルレイ

The Otaku's Choice

Gacha Gacha: The Next Revolution © 2004 Hiroyuki Tamakoshi / KODANSHA LTD. All rights reserved.

The Yagyu Ninja Scrolls

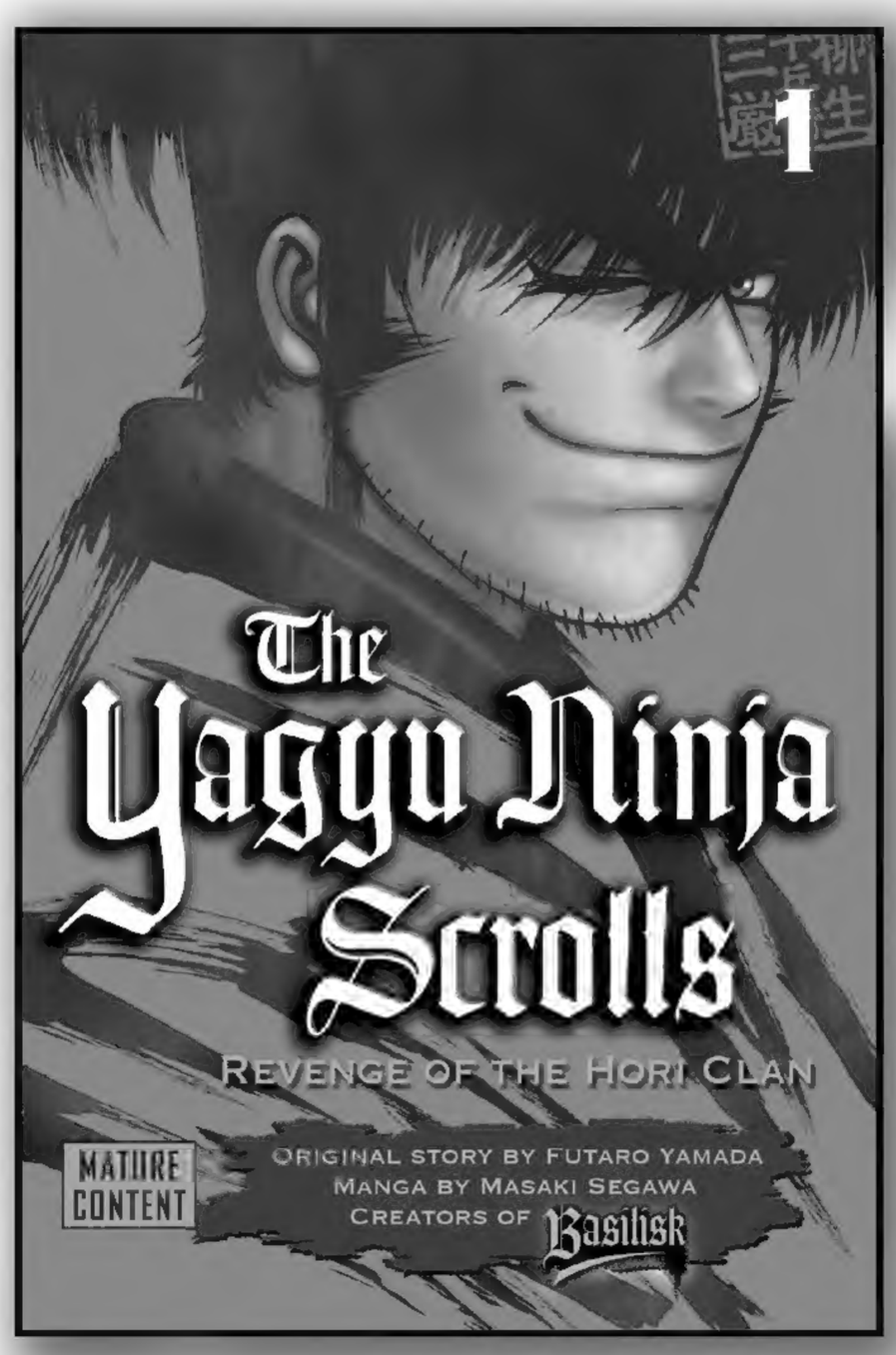
REVENGE OF THE HORI CLAN

ORIGINAL STORY BY FŪTARO YAMADA
MANGA BY MASAKI SEGAWA

VOW OF VENGEANCE!

Seventeenth-century Japan: A rebellion in the Aizu territory has been brutally crushed, leaving twenty-one brave warriors dead and most of the nuns of the local convent slaughtered. Now the surviving nuns have sworn to seek revenge.

- **From the creators of *Basilisk***



Special extras in each volume! Read them all!

VISIT WWW.DELREYMANGA.COM TO:

- Read sample pages
- View release date calendars for upcoming volumes
- Sign up for Del Rey's free manga e-newsletter
- Find out the latest about new Del Rey Manga series

RATING M AGES 18+

DEL REY MANGA デルレイ

The Otaku's Choice™

The Yagyu Ninja Scrolls: Revenge of the Hori Clan © 2005 Fūtaro Yamada and Masaki Segawa / KODANSHA LTD. All rights reserved.

TOMARE!

[STOP!]

You are going the wrong way!

Manga is a completely different
type of reading experience.

To start at the *beginning,* go to the *end*!

That's right! Authentic manga is read the traditional Japanese way—from right to left, exactly the *opposite* of how American books are read. It's easy to follow: Just go to the other end of the book, and read each page—and each panel—from right side to left side, starting at the top right. Now you're experiencing manga as it was meant to be.

Suzuka 12

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

Suzuka volume 12 copyright © 2006 Kouji Seo
English translation copyright © 2009 Kouji Seo

All rights reserved.

First published in Japan in 2006 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
Electronic Publishing rights for this English edition arranged through Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

English digital edition published by Kodansha Advanced Media, LLC, San Francisco.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781682334249

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translator/adapter : David Ury
Lettering: North Market Street Graphics